

DEC 16 1949

Recreation

DECEMBER, 1949



Contents

December 1949

A Christmas Prayer, Howard Braucher	413
Season's Greetings	414
Ye Shepherd Plains of Bethlehem, William Merriam Crane	415
It's Christmas Everywhere	416
Human Problems Faced in Recreation Centers, Dorothy Enderis	418
Magna Cum Laude	421
There's More to Skiing, Madeleine Hamilton	422
The Game of Curling	424
Plaid and Tasseled Tams, Theodore R. Deppe	425
A Starting the New Year Right Party	426
Housing Developments Stress Recreation	428
Recreation's Public Relations, James W. Gilman	429
Knives from Scrap, Irene Scott	433
American Cities in Recreation—Part V, Oakland, California	434
Recreation—Its Meaning for Youth, Harry D. Edgren	439
Music and Drama in Program, Nicoletta Uriuoli	441
Local Boards in Park and Recreation Programs— Problems Old and New of Local Board Members, Mrs. Stuart LeRoy Anderson	444

What Is the Place of Citizen Boards? Harry S. Wender	445
A New Report and How to Use It, Stephen H. Mahoney	448
Lebert H. Weir	449
In the Field—Lynn S. Rodney	453
Softball Rules for 1950	455
Crispin Oglebay	457

Regular Features

World at Play	443
Recreation News	450
Suggestion Box	451
Magazines and Pamphlets	458
Books Received	458
New Publications	459
Recreation Training Institutes	

Inside Back Cover

PHOTO CREDITS: We are indebted for photographs to: J. N. Cooke, Vermont, page 422; National Park Service for view of Yosemite National Park, page 423; Clifford Norton, page 457. The photographs of the 31st National Recreation Congress, in the November issue of RECREATION, were taken by Arthur W. Tong of New Orleans.

**Cover
Picture**

WAITING

It seems a little strange to me
To have to wait beneath a tree.
They know, I'm sure, I've come
to play;
Why don't they start their Christ-
mas Day?

Photograph by Ewing Galloway, New York.

RECREATION is published monthly by the National Recreation Association, formerly named Playground and Recreation Association of America, a service organization supported by voluntary contributions, at 315 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.; is on file in public libraries and is indexed in the *Readers' Guide*. Subscriptions \$3 a year. Entered as second-class matter June 12, 1929, at the Post Office in New York, New York, under Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized May 1, 1924.

Copyright 1949, by the National Recreation Association, Incorporated
PRINTED IN THE U. S. A.



Recreation

DECEMBER 1949

THE MAGAZINE OF THE RECREATION MOVEMENT



A Christmas Prayer

*Howard Braucher's last Christmas card,
reprinted by request.*

Lord God of all,
for this Christmas day we thank thee,
for this day of joy,
for this day of giving,
for this day of living,
for this day when we think of the children.

Our hearts are warm within us.
We think first of those who are dear to us,
who are near to us.
For all we see we wish a happy Christmas day.
For all throughout the world whom we do not see
we desire
such joy as belongs to happy children,
such joy as belongs to men who are brothers,
such happiness as comes to those who are ready
to share what is dearest to them.

Lord God of all,
if we could, we would will
that all days be as Christmas days—
without hate; without fear;
days of deep good will for all;
days of courage;
days of desire for justice;
days of a peace that passeth all understanding;
days of a peace that is outgoing, vital, dynamic;
days of peace that mean rightness upon the earth.

AMEN.

Howard Braucher

THE NATIVITY
LORENZO LOTTO
*Courtesy of
National Gallery of Art
Washington, D. C.
(Kress Collection)*



Greetings of the Season to All

FROM THE NATIONAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Ye Shepherd Plains of Bethlehem

Ye shepherd plains of Bethlehem,
That rest in silence long,
Break forth your Christmas echoes, till
Men hear the angels' song.

Ye shadowed homes in lands oppressed
By centuries of wrong,
Let heavenly gladness enter in
For, hark, the angels' song.

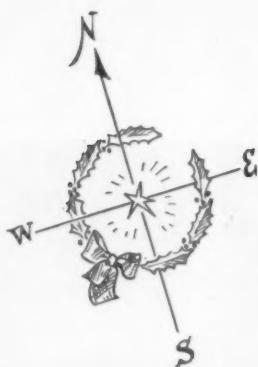
All ye who hear from far and near,
The Christmas joy prolong;
Learn in the fullness of your hearts
To sing the angels' song.

Ye wider plains of neighbor lands,
Ye hills and mountains strong,
Take up the sound and everywhere
Repeat the angels' song.

Ye busy towns and cities vast,
With all your hurried throng,
Calm now your noise and tumult, while
Ye learn the angels' song.

Carol by
WILLIAM MERRIAM CRANE

IT'S CHRISTMAS



EVERYWHERE

OUTSIDE, THE SNOW lies deep and white under the evergreens—inside, the brightly-lighted Christmas tree and a blazing fire add an atmosphere of warmth to the gaiety of the gift-giving . . .

In tropic lands, a soft, warm breeze comes through a window, playing on the dancing couples and merry-makers, dressed in light, summery clothes . . .

It's Christmas—everywhere. In America and Europe it may be a white holiday, while in South America it's a green one, coming in the midst of summer weather. But all over the world there's a common bond of joy and understanding which bridges different climates and customs during this universal celebration of the birth of Christ.

In this country Christmas is an international holiday, for so many traditional parts of our celebration have come from other lands. We are indebted to England for greeting cards, plum pudding, mince pie—and the famous Dickens' tale of Scrooge and Tiny Tim. Germany has contributed the Christmas tree and Santa Claus, while carols have come down through the ages from the Holy Land. Evergreens are of pagan origin, and most of our Christmas greens—such as holly, ivy and laurel—were first brought to this country by the women on the Mayflower. In our concern, today, for international understanding as a basis of building toward an enduring peace, it might be well for us to take some cognizance of these facts in our Christmas parties and programs.

The Christmas crib, or creche, was originated in Italy in 1223 by St. Francis of Assisi. Stockings "hung by the chimney with care" are a custom handed down from the Norsemen, who believed that the Goddess Hertha appeared in the fireplaces of their great halls, bringing them happiness and good fortune. Influenced by the story of Joseph and Mary, the Irish started putting lights in their windows, symbolizing a hospitable welcome to wanderers.

Christmas fireworks, first introduced in Louisiana by French settlers, spread to other southern

states where they are still popular. Yule logs were surrounded with superstition by the Druids, who believed that if the log fire burned all night, the family would have good luck during the coming year. The use of mistletoe, known as a pledge of peace and friendship, also descended from the Druids, who considered this plant sacred. (The custom of kissing under the mistletoe derives from a Scandinavian myth, however.) Only the turkey seems to be a truly American addition to our Christmas celebration!

One of the most popular symbols of Christmas in many countries is the tree—evergreen or fir or any other variety—laden with gaily-colored balls, tinsel and icicles, or adorned with popcorn and cranberry chains and candles. The tree is not a universal symbol of the season, however. In Mexico, for instance, the *pinatas* are the symbol of the celebration, which begins nine days before Christmas Day. Every night a religious procession is followed by a party, with dancing and refreshments, climaxed by the breaking of the pinata. This earthenware jug, covered with papier-mache figures, is filled with toys, nuts and sweets, and hung from the ceiling. Amidst much hilarity, it is broken with a stick by one of the guests who is blindfolded, and then there is a scramble for the falling prizes.

A Litany, an arrangement of the manger scene, the midnight "Mass of the Cock" and the banquet following, all are important parts of the Mexican holiday—known as the *posadas*—but gift-giving is not. However, on January sixth, the day of the Wise Men, children put their shoes on the balconies for the Wise Men to fill with toys.

In Brazil, two of the most deep-rooted traditions are the creche and the midnight Mass. Early in December, households begin setting up their creches, which may be simple or very elaborate—sometimes even taking up a whole room. Families spend the day of Christmas Eve together, then go to the midnight Mass and return home to a sumptuous supper of many delicacies, including turkey,

roast pig, fried shrimp and an assortment of exciting-looking fancy desserts.

Christmas Eve in Columbia is marked by an unusual custom, giving it a Mardi Gras air. At about nine o'clock in the evening, laughing groups of people, in masquerade costumes and masks, appear on the streets. Everyone tries to recognize a friend, and the one who does so first wins a gift from the one recognized. Masqueraders leave the streets as midnight nears, making way for the celebration of midnight Mass, followed by feasting and fun among the adults until early morning. Fireworks also are a part of the holiday tradition in Central and South America.

The giver of gifts, "Santa Claus" to us, is known by many names in different lands, and in Russia is a grandmother—"Good Star"—dressed in a white robe and veil. Father Star, who accompanies her, scolds the bad children and praises the good. In Italy, too, gifts are given by a woman—Befana, who is old and witch-like, dressed in black robes and carrying a broom. Italian children also receive their gifts on January sixth, which is the Epiphany, commemorating the visit of the three Magi to the manger.

According to ancient tradition in Holland, St. Nicholas makes his rounds upon Wodan's horse, Sleipner, whose hoofs Dutch children are supposed to hear on Christmas Eve. Boys and girls leave their wooden shoes on the hearth for St. Nick to fill, sometimes putting hay or carrots in them for the white horse. The Hungarian's St. Nicholas is dressed in bishop's robes, followed by a devil who tries to keep him from presenting the gifts by relating bad things about the people. Czechs and Slovaks receive their bounty from St. Mikulas, who descends from heaven on a golden rope.

The Danes put a bowl of their grod in the attic for Jules-nissen, the queer little dwarf with a gray suit and a nightcap, who brings their gifts. In Germany, Santa Claus has given way to the Christkind, or Kriss Kingle, who is generally represented by a child dressed in white robes with a golden crown and golden wings. Pere Noel—Father Christmas—leaves French children their gifts in wooden shoes on Christmas Day, but the general exchange of presents is on New Year's Day, which is a great family day and the equivalent of our Christmas celebration.

St. Nicholas makes his visits December sixth in Switzerland. In many parts of this country he has been succeeded by the Christ Child, who travels over the land every Christmas Eve in a sleigh drawn by six reindeer, heavily laden with

trees, fruit, toys and cookies. Sweden's gift-giver is St. Lucia, a medieval saint famous for her generosity to the poor.

In Poland and Spain it is the Wise Men who bring the presents. According to a Spanish folk tale, as the Wise Men go to Bethlehem each year to pay homage to the Christ Child, they pass through Spain and leave gifts of candy and playthings for the children. In Syria, Santa Claus is the youngest camel of the Wise Men. Legend has it that this camel fell exhausted at the end of the long journey to Bethlehem, and the Christ Child blessed it with immortality.

Japan's Santa—known as Hoteiosho—is a kind old man with a huge pack on his back. Children believe he has eyes in the back of his head, so they try to be good when he's around! Lan Khoong-Khoong is China's Santa—meaning nice old father. The Chinese tree is the Tree of Light, and is decorated with paper flowers, colored paper chains and cotton snowflakes. Paper chains and evergreens adorn Chinese churches and homes during their Holy Birth Festival.

An English Christmas is very similar to ours, with the exchange of presents and the caroling as outstanding features. Boxing Day, December twenty-sixth, is observed on almost as big a scale as Christmas Day. Originally, this was the time when the village priest opened the poor box and distributed money. Christmas Mummers still present the St. George drama, and other plays that have been given for several hundred years, in such places as Stratford-on-Avon, Gloucestershire and Hampshire. A popular rural custom is the ceremony of the farmer and his friends drinking a toast of cider to their favorite apple tree, and the burning of the Yule log is still carried on in some country homes.

In a Finnish home the fir tree is set up on Christmas eve, decorated with apples and other fruits, candies, paper flags, cotton, tinsel and candles. Festivities are started with a visit to the Finnish steambath, followed by the Christmas dinner. Santa Claus distributes presents at this time. Church services start very early on Christmas Day, which is spent quietly visiting among the family.

Through the ages these traditional observances of Christmas have been handed down from one generation to another. Let us hope that the *spirit* of Christmas, of peace on earth, joy, brotherliness, will be passed on to future generations so that the significance of Christ's birth will never be lost to man, and peace may once more be restored to this troubled world.



Dorothy Enderis chats about recreation experiences in Milwaukee at an evening session of the New Orleans Congress.

MILWAUKEE HAS A German background. There was a time when sixty-five percent of Milwaukee people were of German extraction, and a very fine type of citizen they were and are. We are slow, but we are thorough. It takes us a long time to get somewhere, but when we are there we know where we are, why we are there, and we stick.

In 1911 Milwaukee began to come to the conclusion that it should concern itself about the leisure time of its communities and, showing usual thoroughness, said, "Well, let's go at this in a systematic way, so that we will know what we are after, and why we are after it." It did the sensible thing that any community would do today—it appealed to the National Recreation Association for help in the way of a survey.

The NRA sent Rowland Haynes, and Mr. Haynes and his wife spent three months making a study of what Milwaukee was doing with its leisure time; but they didn't stop there. They made a study of what Milwaukee *could do* with its leisure time and, when that survey was published, we were anything but proud of ourselves. While this was going on, the superintendent of schools and social workers were writing a law and putting it through our state legislature so that, should Milwaukee awaken to the importance

Miss Dorothy Enderis, recently retired, is Director Emeritus of the Department of Municipal Recreation and Adult Education in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

of recreation, it might have access to financial resources to carry on a program.

There are two things to which I attribute our sound start in recreation. It is very, very important, whenever one begins a movement, to begin with a sound basis, a sound philosophy. It was the work of Mr. Haynes to get us started right; and he kept coming to our city several times a year to see what we were doing and how we were doing it. Then the second one is that the law, to which I just referred, had been passed. That law was really epoch-making, and the people who were doing recreation work throughout the country sat up and took notice.

It said: let the people vote on whether or not their community wants to have recreation; let the

HUMAN PROBLEMS

people vote on whether or not they want to tax themselves. If they vote yes, then the school board can ask the common council to levy a special tax, that money to be turned over to the Board of School Directors to be used exclusively for recreation activities for young and old.

That was the basic thought, that recreation was education and should have the same quality of guidance as the academic life of a community. It gave our Board of School Directors a dual responsibility—they were the board of education, and they also became the board of recreation.

In the thirty-seven long years that Milwaukee tolerated me—from 1920 on, at least, when I headed the department—I was an assistant superintendent of schools, but I had nothing whatever to do with the day school. Our department was responsible for the after-school hours and the after-school years of the community. According to the law, if any other board or commission had facilities, the school board might cooperate—the school board providing the supervision and the said board giving the facilities.

Now this law quickly, and through its own wording, dispelled two rather fallacious ideas which were prevalent in those days and which, in many communities, still are so—namely, that recreation is something that concerns only youth. We took the stand right from the beginning that recreation is something that concerns an individual from birth through old age. The law said very definitely "activities for young and old."

Also, in those days, and even today, some people have a notion that recreation consists only of sports, games, outdoor exercise. However, the law enumerated such things as music, drama, literature, and so on, immediately laying down the policy that a well-rounded recreation department should concern itself with a great variety of activities.

Then the school board took \$25,000, I think, out of its continuation fund and four of us out of our teaching positions in the system and said, "We are going to put this to a vote, a vote of the people." Very few people knew what recreation was, at that time, and we four who were selected to start it knew less than anybody else. So we began to try to educate the public on the matter

had not only ignorance, apathy and indifference, but a narrow viewpoint to fight. Thank goodness that didn't last very long.

After we had been in operation for about two years, the board received petitions from two of the finest residential districts in Milwaukee asking for social centers in their schoolhouses and saying, "Our girls and boys have leisure time; we want them to have the opportunity to spend it, and we adults want some of these advantages." They were beginning to realize that the things we were doing in the social centers were not just crime prevention—they were matters of life enrichment; and anything that is a matter of life enrichment for the individual citizen leads to the cultural and civic growth of the community.

FACED IN RECREATION CENTERS

of municipal recreation. Oh, what a lack of understanding we found!

At that time we had a Socialist Government in Milwaukee, and a friend told me what she had overheard two men talking about in the streetcar. One had said to the other, "Say, are you going to vote for the 'Socialist' centers?" And the other replied, "I should say not. That is just one of those blankety-blank notions of those Socialists in the City Hall."

In Milwaukee we had to educate people. It wasn't only a lack of education, but a lack of sympathy with the movement and, therefore, a lack of desire to support it.

One of the four men who organized the department was Mr. Kottnauer, whom many of you old-timers remember. The neighbors couldn't understand Mr. Kottnauer's being there all day long playing with the children. They would gather at night on the sidewalk to watch. Finally, one of them asked him, "Do you get paid for this job?" Mr. Kottnauer said, "Paid? Paid? No, I pay them for letting me play here." That was the end of that sidewalk supervision.

Some people were so worked up about the taxes that they just couldn't see the movement at all. Some of those who did see it saw it more or less from a sentimental viewpoint, "Oh, yes, playgrounds are fine for the children. Boys must have them, especially the bad boys." And of our social centers, "Oh, yes, they are very good for the foreign element, fine for the underprivileged." We

One of the last speeches made by our late superintendent of schools, Mr. Goodrich, was about the work of the recreation department of his board. He said, "I appreciate very, very deeply what social centers and playgrounds have done for you and your children, but I appreciate far more deeply what the social centers and playgrounds have taught you to do for yourselves."

Being part of an educational system made it possible for us to get into the schoolhouses, and we soon began to be known as "The City of Lighted Schoolhouses." How I hope that the fights of all of you to get into the schoolhouses will soon be over. We got in because we were all one family, but don't for a minute think that sledding was easy. I am ashamed to say that some of the biggest obstacles we had in the early days came from the school folks themselves, teachers and principals; and I needn't tell you that the janitors owned the school buildings. But that is all changed. Our principals now beg us for recreation work in their schools.

The holy-of-holies of the school system, at least in Milwaukee, was the high school. We recreation workers almost took our hats off when we passed one. Nothing was more gratifying to me than, about three years ago, to have on my desk petitions from four high school principals asking for recreation activities in their schools. They have come to see the value of it. And the janitors! Why, when I go into a social center, it is difficult for me to know, from the enthusiasm, who is the



The Knights of the Round Table star in a successful drama program in one of Milwaukee's public schools.

director and who is the janitor.

My pet story is about our janitor in the Fifth Street Social Center. When table tennis began to be popular we started working to put tennis tables in our budget. Our staff got together and went through every building to see where we could store our tables in the daytime and accordingly equip the center for table tennis. We got every center equipped but one, and we couldn't possibly see where we could store the tables so we just didn't order any. A few weeks after, when table tennis was going like a house afire, the janitor of that school came to me quite incensed. He said, "How come the Fifth Street Center doesn't have table tennis?"

I said, "You know, it nearly broke our hearts not to be able to put it in, but where in the world would you keep your tables?"

He replied, "I got it all fixed up. If you will build a little latticed wall or compartment, I will show you where to store them."

"But that means you will have to carry those three tables up a flight of steps."

And he answered, "What about it? You leave that to me. Give us table tennis."

Nothing sells itself like a good program! It is not difficult to get into school buildings anymore. People are beginning to see that thirty-five and a half hours use, forty weeks a year, is poor business. Now, the trick is not to get in, but to stay in. You can't stay in if you don't use good judgment. This development of the popularity and tolerance of recreation and of the use of the school-houses wasn't hit or miss. It meant good judgment in the type of activity we put on, constant education and speaking to clubs, constant public relations. But, I say again, the best thing was a sound, sensible program.

We didn't fall into a social center with everything we wanted right at the beginning. It was years, for instance, before we had the nerve to put boxing on our program! It was years before we had the nerve to play cards in the school-houses, and how we worked so that the agitation finally came from the citizens themselves, rather than from our own office!

Do you know that story in the Bible of old Simeon of the temple? They brought the Christ Child into the temple and, an old servant, seeing the Christ Child, realized that He was the Saviour. He said, "Now may Thy servant depart in peace, for mine eyes have seen the glory of the Lord."

Very often, when I would walk home from a board meeting at which they had decided to buy something or to inaugurate a certain policy, something that we had planned for, hoped for, wished for until it had finally become a realization, I would think with gratitude, "Now may thy servant depart in peace." But, notice, I never departed.

One of the developments of the recreation movement in general, that has filled my professional heart with great joy and thanksgiving, is the way in which colleges and universities are now putting recreation into their curricula and offering a degree in it as a profession. You who have been in recreation longer know the dearth of recreation workers.

When we first knew that we were going to have some playgrounds in Milwaukee, we didn't know where to turn for workers. People didn't know what games to play; the physical education in our public schools was "one-two stuff" and nothing else. So we organized a Saturday morning play course with the idea of getting about nineteen teachers to take it in preparation for the summer. Instead of nineteen, fifty-seven registered.

People began to know that there were jobs open in the social centers and they came to apply. Naturally we would ask them what made them interested in the work.

One young chap came to me and said, "I am just getting over a serious operation, and my doctor says I ought to get out in the air and in the sunshine, so I would like a playground job this summer."

Such incidents were repeated over and over again. My choice story is about a butcher who wanted to be a social center director. He came to see us about an opening and said, "I have been in business in this neighborhood seventeen years. I know all the people and they all know me, and they have been my steady customers. That shows

that I have been treating them right, and you bet I understand people. Then, you know, I am getting kind of tired of this butcher business, and this going in and out of iceboxes; it's giving me rheumatism. So I said to my woman, 'I'm going to try to get that social center director's job. I know I can do it.' Well, that is the type of worker who came to us. Now we can employ professional workers. However, that still isn't going to solve our problem one hundred percent.

You all have had people come into your office to apply for a job, pulling the whole alphabet behind them in the form of degrees; but, when it came to the thing that we need most—personality, they just didn't have it. We must realize that while a degree and training are important, there is something far, far *more* important.

Sometimes we ask a recreation worker, "What are you doing?" He will say, "Oh, I have a swell job. I am director of a social center, a community house, swell building, three stories, and we have 708 people registered on our list. It's a swell place."

That is good, but wouldn't it be better if that man, instead of thinking of his job in terms of a three-story building with such and such an enrollment and attendance, would think and say, "I am responsible for the growth and happiness of 708 people"? That is the attitude we must take if we are going to have successful playgrounds and successful social centers.

It is true that we must concern ourselves with what the boy does with the basketball, what the man who comes to join the orchestra does with the fiddle, what the woman does with the piece of cloth she brings to the sewing class, because we want to give them skills, we want them to learn something. We must be far more concerned, how-

ever, with what the ball does to the boy and what the fiddle does to the man and what that four yards of cloth and the membership in the dress-making class are doing to that mother.

There is a German word that I have never been able to put into English. It is the word *leutselig*. Leut is the German word for people, and selig is holy and, to me, the finest attribute with which you could credit a recreation worker is to say that he is *leutselig*, meaning that people are holy to him.

I think it was Whitman who was walking down the street with a friend when the friend pointed to another man on the street and said to Whitman, "Don't you hate that man?" And Whitman replied, "Hate him? How can I hate him? I know him!"

And so, getting to know people, getting to understand them, to respect them and appreciate them is where we, in our recreation activities, have a greater responsibility than any profession I know of—and I place it second to none—to spin that fiber from which that great world, about which we are all dreaming and talking, is woven.

I claim it is basically true, because nations are made of people, that helping people to know one another and to understand one another—not to tolerate, but to respect one another—is one of the greatest privileges that we have as recreation workers.

Yes, we have a job and a big one. We have worked at it so well that it has grown to be a recognized profession. But that isn't enough. We must ply that profession with consecration and devotion and, if we do that, we have more than a job, more than a profession. Then we have a mission, and may God help us to consecrate ourselves to it!

Magna Cum Laude

RECREATION magazine has been awarded honorable mention in the Book of Appraisals, "Magazines for School Libraries." One of the ninety-seven publications meriting this honor—out of some 5,917 competitors—the magazine of the recreation movement was selected because it is a "thoroughly alive and stimulating guide to wholesome democratic play." Under the classification, "RECREATION—(Social Problems, including Minority Groups)," Laura K. Martin, author of the book, also makes the following observations:

"Characterized by a uniform distinction in appearance . . . Community fun is depicted in the square dance for the oldsters and plans for Halloween and Thanksgiving, community style. Such articles as 'Recreation for the Blind' are appealingly illustrated. The reader is taken abroad to see the activities of other lands. Students reported their generous use of this magazine in the author's study of homemaking materials, and it is also useful in showing students the vocational possibilities in an important new field."

Madeleine Hamilton

There's More to

TOO MANY AMERICANS shy away from skiing because of embarrassment, consciousness of age or the fear of breaking a bone. Seeing only wild downhill skiing and jumping, as they mostly do, they are right. Skiing in this country has become almost synonymous with break-neck speed and acrobatics. It is as if we confined the sport of horseback riding to racing and ruled that everyone who took up riding must become a jockey.

Actually, skiing is one of the most pliable and versatile of sports, adapting itself to any age, any terrain. In Scandinavia some of the brisk old wizards you meet skiing in the mountains are over eighty years old.

Here in America, where skiing and ski resorts are becoming commercialized, where skiers wait in line for hours at ski tows for the thrill of one swoop downhill, much of the real joy of skiing is lost. I was born in Scandinavia, was almost brought up on skis. Now that I live in the United

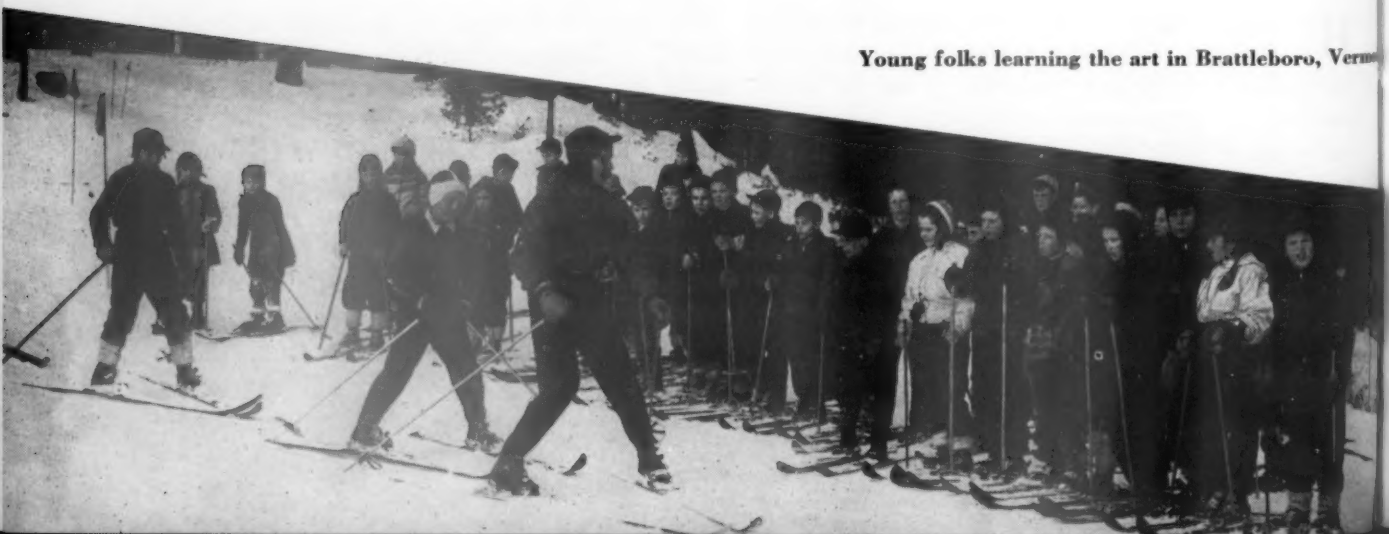
States, I miss the type of skiing I used to know—the family expeditions, the cross-country tours, the non-commercial mountain lodges. Skiing in Scandinavia is an integral part of the cultural background of the people, filled with the vitality of a sacred heritage. Each generation adds to its strength. As the Scandinavian youngster learns to ski, he also builds his character.

It starts when you are about three years old, when you get your first pair of skis. They are the big adventure. You hug them—first with your eyes, then with your arms. Slowly and gently you slide your small hands over their surface. Your first pair is not fancy—no bindings; just a strap of leather for the toes. No poles either; they would be crutches at this stage.

In the beginning you get a hand from your father. But the slow task of gaining control is yours. You have to struggle with snow, skis and your own wobbly legs. When your father thinks you are ready, the big day comes—you are allowed to accompany your parents on their Sunday ski trip. It is a proud day; you are to see the world which lies beyond—the world of deep forests, of pine trees drooping with snow, of mountains filled

Madeleine Hamilton, born and raised on a farm in southern Sweden, has skied extensively in this country, Canada, France, Germany, Scandinavia; has written articles on skiing for American magazines.

Young folks learning the art in Brattleboro, Vermont



SKIING ---



Few countries have as magnificent a variety of mountains as ours.

with unexplored mystery; a world of enchantment.

In Scandinavia, skiing and the family are closely linked. The family outings I remember had a ritualistic quality which stimulated the imagination. Sunday was Father's day with the family and he made the most of it.

In the early morning we gathered around the big breakfast table. Here was steaming hot oatmeal, milk, ham and eggs, home-fried potatoes, stacks of crisp brown Swedish bread, fat golden Norwegian goat's cheese, applesauce, jam, coffee and chocolate. Then we made our lunch sandwiches, wrapped them in wax paper and put them in our rucksacks. Father carried candy bars, thermos bottles of hot coffee and chocolate, a first-aid kit, a compass and maps. Each Sunday a different trip was planned, and plans were kept most secret.

Father and Uncle took turns in breaking trail, followed by Mother and our aunt; then came the caravan of youngsters, the smallest ones bringing up the rear. The sun was bright and the snow smooth. It was fun gliding along the trail, and it was fun when Father stopped to identify the different animal tracks, the birds and trees. He teased Mother when she fell on some easy slope, encouraged the littlest ones and showed us new techniques. At lunch time we learned to make a chair of our skis and poles and to balance on it while eating our sandwiches and drinking the hot chocolate.

Cousin Gunnar and I often had trouble on the way home. Big lumps of snow stuck to the bottom of our skis. We had been too lazy to do our waxing that morning, deciding it was not important! No word of sympathy from Father; this was our problem and we had to cope with it.

At home we brushed the snow off our skis and put them in their place. We hung our wet cloth-

ing in the kitchen to dry. We stuffed our boots with newspaper and set them far enough from the fire so that they wouldn't curl up. Next, everybody had a hot bath sprinkled with pine oil, which spread its fragrance through the house. Then we all went to bed, and slept for an hour before dinner. All Scandinavian skiers know the importance of this hour of complete relaxation after a day's skiing.

At school ski training is continued. At Easter-time thousands and thousands of school children from all over Scandinavia go with their teachers to the mountains. They stay for a week and live either on trains or in farmhouses. As touring is the aim of all Scandinavian skiers, cross-country skiing is the foundation upon which we build. No one is considered a good skier who has not mastered its technique. Then, and only then, you may dream of speed and records. It is only recently that a few tow-ropes have been installed in Scandinavia. Climbing is still a must. It warms up the muscles and makes you feel that you have earned the fun of each downhill run.

Having finished school you are ready for real touring. Both the Norwegian and Swedish Societies for the Furthering of Skiing, as well as the tourist clubs, have constructed a network of small huts across the mountains, making possible an almost endless variety of tours. The huts are neat and clean and stocked with blankets, wood and cooking utensils. The bunks are hard but roomy, the stove is good, and if there is no well you melt snow for water. You bring your own food, and it is an unwritten law that you leave the hut with the same supplies and in the same neat condition as you found it. These huts are the joy of the Scandinavian people and the greatest safeguard for her wilderness, as they make it accessible without disturbing it.

The ski season in Scandinavia lasts from December till the beginning of June; the big holidays, however, are Christmas and Easter, when practically everyone who can stand on two legs puts on a pair of skis and goes to the mountains.

We in America can benefit from what the Scandinavians have learned and developed through more than a thousand years of skiing. No one needs the peace and healing power of the silent mountains more than we. To counteract the disastrous effects of our mechanical existence is essential. There must be places where we can go and be quiet, free from all chaotic contraptions and psychological pressures. Nothing can compare with cross-country skiing across the flowing contours of the soft winter landscape to restore balance and repose. There are no sharp angles; every line, every shape and form reveal the eternal, interlacing pattern of ever-recurring life. As we laugh and fall, our faces buried in the soft snow, the hardness within us begins to melt. We meet each other simply and naturally again.

Here in the stillness, close to the sky and the stars, there are no obstructions between us and the Cosmos. As the skier rests quietly on his poles and listens, the meaning of his life becomes apparent. As he becomes part of this incredible space around him, the very silence is no more. The air, the sky, the very peaks vibrate with the music of the spheres. Pilots whom I know have heard it on lonely flights. Skiers, too, can hear it on solitary peaks.

Few countries have such a magnificent variety of mountains as America. To a skier they are pure paradise. We must not let the ideals of the

sport deteriorate, nor their natural beauty be cheapened. Each generation is only the custodian of that which has been given to it. It is our attitude today that will decide what kind of mountains we are going to have tomorrow.

The cheapening process is already under way. Jukeboxes, slot machines, bars and such paraphernalia are moving to the mountains. Where we should go to find peace and refreshing solitude, we are now met with the same screaming, elbowing existence we left behind. On almost every slope a network of drab eating and sleeping places has sprung up, lacking in charm, freshness and the human touch, depressing in standardization. People lounge about the eating counters and ski lifts wearing the same expressions you see in the waiting rooms at Grand Central. Youngsters ride up the lift and come down the trail as if it were a roller coaster. If we don't watch out, our mountains will become miniature Coney Islands.

Skiing can be a tremendous creative force—if we let it. Families and communities could come together to clear trails, build and maintain a ski lodge, ski together in the evenings and on weekends. As parents begin to ski with their children, a common bond is established—the thrill of skiing and the joyous sharing of the wonders of the countryside. Amid the silence and majesty of endless vistas of snow and sky they find, together, the deeper layers of their beings; they really begin to live.

As we realize this, we shall begin to understand what the Scandinavians have learned—the simple truth that man and man, and man and nature, belong together.

The Game of Curling

THE 500-YEAR-OLD game of curling is played on ice but, oddly enough, players wear rubbers or rubber-soled shoes instead of ice skates. Their bat or hockey stick is a broom; their baseball, football or puck, a stone weighing forty-four pounds. Competitors consist of two "skips" who flip a coin for first or second play. Each skip is assisted by three helpers—his first assistant, the vice-skip; the second, his number two man; and the third, his lead.

All curling clubs follow the standard rules of the game set up by the Ontario Curling Association in Canada and in the United States, and those set up by the Mid-West Curling Association. The rules of the game have generally established standard rinks which are forty-two yards

from the foot line to the tee. The tees, thirty-eight yards apart, are the centers for circles seven-feet in radius, inside of which smaller circles are also drawn. All stones must cross a "hog" line or cannot be counted.

The players (or rinks) rotate—that is, immediately after the first player has "cast his two stones," he is followed by his competitor who "casts his two stones." Each player uses his broom to direct the "curl" of the stone and to increase its speed, and scores one shot for every stone which is nearer the tee than any other stone of the opposing rink. Disputed shots are determined by vice-skips but, if they disagree, they are determined by an umpire or by a neutral curler. (See *Plaid and Tasseled Tams*, next page.)

Plaid and Tasseled Tams

Theodore R. Deppe



EVERY SPORT HAS its hero. Ben Hogan means golf; Joe DiMaggio means baseball; Frankie Parker means tennis; George Mikan means basketball. No matter in what part of the country those names and names like them are mentioned, children and adults alike are able to link the hero to the sport and to explain the intricacies of each of the games they represent.

Only a handful of people scattered through the nation can link Bob Magie, Babe Maturi, Frank Kleffman or Harold Lauber to their sport. Yet, in the northern reaches of the nation along the shores of the Great Lakes, these names are bright spots in conversation which may become heated with enthusiasm when they are mentioned.

They are linked with a fast growing amateur winter sport in which the word "rink" means four men, a "sheet" means a stretch of pebbled ice, and the word "rock" is uttered with hushed respect. In the northern section of the nation's midwest, these strange utterances mean only one thing—curling.

This ice-coated sport is several hundred years old, yet its American popularity is in its infancy. One of the biggest factors in the spread of this Scottish-born sport is the bonspiels, held throughout the country each year. The largest and oldest of these is the Northwest Bonspiel, held for the last sixteen years at the Superior, Wisconsin, Curling Club.

Each year, when the cold of the Wisconsin winter has made the ice just right, sixteen "sheets" are laid down in the municipally owned skating arena and curling club. Then "rinks" from Canada, Minnesota, upper Michigan and Wisconsin don their brightly-colored jackets, hoist their plaid and tasseled tams to their heads, and travel to Superior.

For three days the bonspiel continues, until

Mr. Deppe is director of recreation in Superior.

there are only sixteen "rinks" left to sweep their way to the prizes. Just before the big day, when the year's champions are crowned, the curlers sit down to a huge dinner served them in the club's spacious rooms.

When the early March thaws start to soften the pebbled ice in the big enclosed arena, boasted to be one of the largest such structures in the world, the champions and the losers alike can be found swishing their "stones" through the "slow" ice in preparation for the next year's all important curling season.

The Superior Curling Club is an autonomous organization made up of the curling enthusiasts in the city. The club sets up its own regulations and the schedules for curling. However, the city's recreation and park departments are entrusted with the maintenance and upkeep of the huge curling club building. Under the one roof are seven regular "curling sheets" and a large skating rink. The rink is opened to the general public and provisions are made for civic organizations to use it through arrangements with the recreation department. During the three-day bonspiel, of course, the skating rink is closed and nine more "sheets" are laid by the expert park department personnel.

Each year the Superior Figure Skating Club, in cooperation with the park and recreation departments, produces a huge ice show and, through the years, has developed stars who have gained renown in this profession.

During the big bonspiel and the annual ice show, the recreation department serves as a coordinating agency and, more times than not, as a clearing house for the troubles that crop up during the productions. In attempting to keep close harmony among the groups that use the municipal skating arena and curling club, the recreation department has promoted an integrated interest in these popular icy sports.



GAIETY AND FUN should be the keynote of a New Year's Eve party, tying in with the idea of "starting the New Year right." Decorations should be as colorful and festive as possible. Balloons and gay paper streamers can be used, or Christmas decorations can be adapted to the occasion by the addition, to the Christmas greenery, of gaily colored bells. Pictures of Father Time, with his long beard and scythe, and of the New Year as a newborn baby, or a cherub, can be centered effectively. The dates of the old and new year might be featured, perhaps arranged with flowers or greens.

Consider giving out paper hats at the door. If there is time to make humorous ones at home, or in a group beforehand, so much the better. Giving girls' hats to the boys or men would be a touch of fun. In the awarding of prizes for the games to be played, a great deal of merriment can result from occasionally presenting the winner with a suggestion for a stunt which he must perform or a task for him to do, or perhaps with a prediction of his fortune in the New Year, preferably in a humorous jingle—to be read aloud.

New Hobbies—*Pre-party Icebreaker*—Give each player two cards, a pencil and a pin. Tell him to think of a new hobby for the New Year, then to draw a picture giving a clue as to what he has chosen, and to sign his name below it (if the players are unacquainted). When finished, this picture is pinned to the player's chest where all can see. When all players are placarded, each takes his second card, goes around the room looking at the drawings of others, guesses what hobbies their pictures represent and writes down the name of each person whose drawing he has inspected, along with his guess. After a period of ten minutes or more, time is called, and players count the number of people's names they have collected, and the number of hobby guesses. An award is given to the player with the largest list of names, and a slightly better award to the one who guessed the greatest number of hobbies correctly. If players in the group are acquainted, have them omit collecting names and merely guess the hobbies.

Past Year's Advertising—*Pre-party Icebreaker, for small group*—Cut up old magazines for this one, while doing your pre-party planning. Paste advertising slogans, often used throughout the past year, or ads with the name of the company removed, on as many cards as there will be players. When guests arrive, pin one of these cards on each player and give him a blank card and pencil. Ask him to go around to each person

and guess what the slogan advertises, or the name of the company advertising, as the case may be, jotting down his guess opposite the name of the player whose card he is examining. At the end of a stated period, give an award to person guessing the largest number of ads correctly.

"I Resolve . . ."—Announce that since the New Year cannot be started correctly without good resolutions, and that since it is usually hard to make up one's mind as to what to resolve, you are going to let your guests help each other. Appoint one guest (a lively one if possible) to act as chairman of the Resolutions Committee. All other guests are to be members of the committee.

Each person is to write down a resolution for one other person in the room, and to bear in mind that these resolutions, no matter how ridiculous they may sound, are to go into effect immediately and to be "lived up to" throughout the evening. In fact, it will be the job of the committee to see to it that they are carried out, and to report any broken resolutions to the chairman immediately. If, for instance, someone resolves to improve his manners, or stand up for his rights, or always see that his partner is seated, or whatever, he had better stick to it or suffer the consequences.

Have guests fold the resolutions and drop them into a bowl. Mix them thoroughly and let each guest draw a slip warning him that Fate has a hand in this and that he'd better live up to what he finds written there. Guests read aloud.

The chairman collects the reports throughout the party. Provide him with a list of stunts to be performed by resolution breakers at the end of the evening—just before, or during, refreshments. They should be brief and funny as possible. Examples—make a noise like a rooster at dawn; imitate a girl seeing a mouse; recite one verse of a poem or jingle; imitate a "blues" singer; impersonate Father Time, and so on.

Charades—This game is good at any time, and particularly so at a New Year's party where everyone is ready for active fun. The players should be divided into two teams, or into several small groups if the party is large. A group or team selects a word and acts it out, first by syllables, or groups of syllables, and then as an entire word in a single, final act which expresses the meaning of the charade as a whole. Talking, as a part of the act, may be used or not, as you wish, but care should be taken that the actual syllable is not said during the performance.

If the charade is not guessed within a certain time limit, perhaps five or ten minutes, the same group acts another. This is continued until one

charade is guessed, after which the teams change sides. Score should be kept by allowing each team one point for each correct guess. If played at a large party, each group takes a turn at acting, all the others doing the guessing. The answers score for the individual, in this case, rather than for the team. Awards are given for the highest score.

Magazine Contest—A quiet game may be desirable after an active session of charades, but if more action seems indicated, skip this one.

Pass out paper and pencils and have guests write their name and list numbers up to twenty down the side of the sheet. Then read the following statements, asking players to write down a guess as to the magazine described. After everyone has finished, papers should be passed to the person on the left. Read the answers aloud, guests scoring the papers, with one point given for every correct answer. Highest scores win a small award.

Guessing Contest	Answers
1. A prisoner's dream.	Liberty
2. A great sum of money.	Fortune
3. The character of the population of New York City.	Cosmopolitan
4. A cat or dog or husband.	Woman's Home Companion
5. A Duke's crown.	Coronet
6. The aim of every housewife.	Good Housekeeping
7. What every child has or had.	Parents
8. Where there is hope.	Life
9. Busy people have too little; idlers too much.	Time
10. A type of gentleman (sometimes questionable).	Esquire
11. A color; printed pages between two covers.	Red Book
12. A nationality.	American
13. A body of water; thirty days.	Atlantic Monthly
14. The girl friend.	Youth's Companion
15. Bath night and the mail.	Saturday Evening Post
16. Before you leap.	Look
17. Coal carriers.	Colliers
18. A famous hotel.	New Yorker
19. The corner garagemen.	Popular Mechanics
20. A vacation; Fourth of July.	Holiday

Human Checkers—Arrange seven chairs in a line, with a vacant chair in the center. Three men and three women try to move to opposite sides by moving one at a time, jumping one at a time, and never moving backward. Finish in fifteen moves. Persons may jump own sex as well as opposite sex.

The solution is that a man slides, lady jumps, lady slides, three men move, three ladies move, three men move, two ladies move, and one man moves. (Pennies and nickels, small and large glasses, and the like may also be used to play the above game.) In a large group, several sets of human checkers can be formed.

Double or Nothing—Mock "Quiz" Radio Program—Prepare, in advance, categories of ques-

tions from which contestants may choose those they prefer to answer. Such categories might be music, history, movies, art, literature, and so on. For each one, prepare a long list of questions and answers to be used by the leader, thereby providing for the contingency of more than one person choosing the same category. (If your party is a group project, a committee can work out a mock show, with funny commercial announcements and so on.)

Have the players draw up chairs facing a leader, who now becomes master of ceremonies with some sort of a dummy microphone rigged up in front of him. If possible, it might be well to choose one of the liveliest members of the group as m. c. Suggest a comedy commercial sponsor to him and supply him with plenty of stage money (handmade, on green paper).

The leader then selects players from the audience to come up to the "mike" and try their luck. He offers five dollars for the first correct answer, and allows his guest to decide, on each succeeding question, whether he would like to take the money and stop, or take the chance of doubling it on the next question. The second question, therefore, will pay ten dollars, if correctly answered. If not, the contestant is out of the game and returns to his seat to wait for the "jackpot question." A variation on this way of playing the game can be that the person who cannot answer the question

becomes m. c. as forfeit, and the previous m. c. joins the circle of contestants.

Allow each contestant five questions, and give them one minute to answer each question. At the end of the contest (do not draw it out too long), spring the jackpot question. Be careful not to make this too easy, nor so difficult that no one will be able to answer. Award the winner with a prize, and give simple awards to the holders of the most money.

Watch the Clock—Be careful to keep one eye on the clock and stop all games a few minutes before twelve. Plan something special to mark this momentous hour. Distribute horns or noise makers; have one or two cooperative guests give a signal for general merrymaking by beating one or two sharp blasts on tin pans and calling Happy New Year. You might tune in the radio or set your television dial for the celebration in Times Square, New York, to add to the general excitement.

Start singing "Auld Lang Syne" with any group handy. The refrain will be picked up by everyone. If all are in the mood to sing, this might be followed by other appropriate selections. In a large party, at the stroke of twelve, lights might be dimmed, a spotlight turned on a bedecked poster of the New Year or of the new date. Refreshments should be served immediately following the general din.

Housing Developments Stress Recreation

MANY OF THE large housing developments in New York City are now offering tenants of all ages a wide variety of community facilities, planned as substitutes for the once-familiar yards, cellars and attics which families have used for play and homework.

The New York Times reports that the New York Life Insurance Company has under construction everything from tot lots to bowling alleys and a movie theatre seating 2,000 for its Fresh Meadows development in Queens, soon to be an integrated city of about 12,000 people. Numerous clubs have also been organized in meeting rooms in the development, and a carpentry shop is being readied in a non-residential building.

The Metropolitan Life Insurance Company has a recreation director and assistants to supervise the play areas in its developments. Outdoor play

areas, including softball fields, badminton courts and wading pools account for most of the community facilities in these projects, with a limited amount of play space indoors for inclement weather. Horseshoe pitching and shuffleboard courts are other attractions for adults, with tournaments, pageants, singing games and similar activities for the children.

Community facilities are also evident in the low-rent housing projects under the New York City Housing Authority, where eighteen nurseries are now in operation and two more underway. These are either endowed or run by a private or public agency whenever possible. In addition, every project provides community rooms or complete centers where interracial and non-sectarian groups can meet.

RECREATION'S PUBLIC RELATIONS

James W. Gilman

AN URGENCY exists for better public relations in the field of recreation. Neither the concept of recreation nor the need for trained professional leadership is understood widely enough.

Psychiatrists, educators, sociologists, judges, enlightened parents, clergymen raise their voices to tell us that recreation is as important in modern society as sanitation, police protection, public health measures. Yet we, as practitioners in recreation, are reluctant to do an effective job of education and selling for the benefit of our communities and of ourselves.

Achieving status for recreation and for recreation workers depends upon sound public relations, based on a well-thought-out and effective program, nationally and locally. It calls for an understanding of public relations and the most modern methods of application in an organized and efficient fashion. Certain outworn ideas about public relations have to be uprooted; new ideas have to be wisely accepted and put into practice.

David M. Cox, lecturer at Northwestern University and public relations consultant, says, "Public relations is composed of public opinion and human relations." It is, he adds, the "dealing (relations) of an organization with groups (publics)—public relationships."

These definitions make it plain that public relations is more than mere publicity. Publicity is one of the means used in many public relations programs. A public relations program is most effective at the point of sale—at that point where the consumer or the one acted upon comes most closely in contact with the organization trying to act upon him. In other words, neither advertising nor publicity does as much toward selling a product or an idea as what takes place at the point of contact—over the counter.

Rather than a general public, there are a number of publics, each with a different relationship

to the organization and to each other. No lengthy demonstration is needed to make it clear that the taxpaying public, a participating public of elementary school age, and local playground leaders all have a relationship to a community recreation organization, but all differ in needs and interests. If a public relations program is to succeed, each of the important publics related to the organization must be taken into consideration and its needs and desires considered individually.

Don't forget that public relations exists at all times. Your public relations program is only an enlightened application of methods aimed at making your various publics willing or eager to accept your services or your mere existence.

If a public relations program is to be effective, an objective analysis of your publics is the first job. Business firms, that can afford to, retain outside consultants to do this job, in order to assure objectivity. Most recreation organizations have to do the best they can within themselves. Don't be surprised if an organization of taxpayers judges what you consider objectivity as charged with emotional self-interest.

Assuming that your organization is a tax-supported agency, what are the most important publics in your relationships? Some are: 1) public officials—the mayor or equivalent administrative officer, members of the city council or board, civil service administrators, chief of police; 2) members of your own governing board; 3) taxpayers and members of taxpayers associations; 4) employees; 5) participants in your various programs; 6) representatives of publicity media.

In every organization the number of important publics differs somewhat. Once you accept the idea that there is no such thing as a general public—that a special kind of job has to be done for each of your separate, though not always distinct, publics—you will begin to see them plainly and to sense the kind of relationship you want and methods of achieving it. Better start with the premise that you can't be all things to all publics. The interests of taxpayers looking for reduced taxes

Mr. Gilman, as director, Chicago Recreation Commission, has worked hard at establishing sound public relations through the recreation program in that city.

and the participating group looking for more recreation opportunities are opposed to each other. The employee public desiring better pay has still a different point of view.

Your public relations program becomes entangled with the public relations program of other organizations. Skillful operation is called for and it can come from no other source than the executive himself. An ex-newspaper man who knows only how to prepare press releases won't help much even if he captures miles of space in the press. The planning of public relations is a job for the top brass unless outside consultants can be hired. It should never be delegated to the secretarial help, although they play important parts in the operation.

Let's outline briefly what is involved in the public relations program as it concerns each of your publics. Different methods will doubtless suggest themselves once your objective is clear, but a few ideas may help you achieve the needed clarity. Keep in mind that the point of contact is the important one with each. You can't control what they are going to read or what they will listen to over the radio, although you can take steps to supplement it.

Public Officials

What about the city officials? When are you closest to them? When does your organization reach them most intimately? There probably are a number of places: when constituents use your facilities and find them satisfactory; when your programs reach some of the young people living close to them; when the per capita cost of your program is commented upon favorably; when the delinquency rate declines; when voters approve your bond issues without undue alarm.

Public officials want to know what is going on about them. More than that, since they are responsible for providing funds for your operations, you have the responsibility of keeping them informed. But make the informing pleasant. Small doses at frequent intervals will be worth much more than voluminous and sleep-inducing reports once or twice a year. They should be regularly invited to participate in your affairs; you should ask and welcome their advice. It won't hurt your organization a bit if you try to discover some of the hobbies of your city officials and cater to these hobbies just a little. There's only one way of making them your friends and that is by being friendly.

Board Members

If your organization is governed by a board of trustees or any other board, you have a group

that calls for particular public relations attention. Members of boards have a way of losing their identity with the rest of the world when they sit down to be board members. What happens to them no one has ever been able to determine exactly. Any one of them as an individual, away from the board room table, would be a fair facsimile of a human being. Sit him down as a member of a board and he immediately becomes a stuffed shirt. The job here, perhaps, is to make board members relax by having them understand the human value of the program by making each member feel that he has a responsibility as a human being as well as a policy-maker.

Keep human interest before board members. This can be done by showing movies or photographs of various activities, by repeating comments and seeing to it that news stories covering your various activities are put under their eyes in the presence of other board members and that graphic descriptions of interesting programs are made a part of meetings.

Further, you should make every effort to get them to take part in the program. One might be invited to play Santa Claus at a Christmas party; another, with the proper background, might be asked to design a printed piece; another might serve as a contact between you and a printer; another might be asked for advice on writing publicity copy or placing it effectively; another may have connections with a statistical group which would be useful in preparing the statistical section of an annual report. There are many ways to get participation, if you have the imagination to dream them up and make the need plain.

Taxpaying Public

Reaching the public of taxpayers primarily requires ability to conduct your organization efficiently and to be able to demonstrate this fact. You should be ready at all times to say how much money is being spent, and for what. You should know how much a summer day camp program costs and what items are involved, as well as how many children benefit from it and the approximate cost for each participant.

Plans for future development of the program, for new activities, for further acquisitions of property, and the like, should be publicized fully and completely. Stories in newspapers, maps, posters, radio interviews, talks before community and neighborhood councils—all are part of the approach. Here education is the key—after all, the taxpaying public has a right to know how its money is being spent.

Interpretation of ultimate results is of the utmost importance. Dancing per se may not seem important but a comparison of where teen-agers spent their time before dances were held regularly, and afterward, may point up a striking contrast. In one village, the first year a community Halloween program was inaugurated, vandalism was reduced from several thousands of dollars to less than ten dollars, complaints to the police department from more than one hundred to two.

Such facts bearing on tax costs are startling evidence of the economic values of a recreation program and should be used to the fullest advantage. Make sure that the taxpayer realizes what he, as a property owner, as a parent, and as an individual, stands to gain from a recreation program, as well as what it will cost him. Parents seldom fully value their stake in a recreation system until it is pointed out to them dramatically.

You'll have many examples of your own to draw upon. You can demonstrate, among other things, that property values increase where good parks and playgrounds exist. Repetition of even good examples, however, lessens their effectiveness. Remember that taxes that achieve ends immediately discernable are not resented nearly as much as those which the taxpayer suspects are wasted.

It was a brilliant, even though uncalled for, piece of public relations by a taxpayers' organization to attack the cost of a proposed nursery school program as a tax to provide "baby sitters." The only way to offset such a diabolical notion is to report fully on the facts: how many children of families, in which both the father and mother work, are present in the community; what happens to children of these families if they are left on their own; how much nursery schools do for the development of the child in preparing him for his regular school experience; the cost of a delinquent as compared to the cost of nursery schools.

Employees

When you think of employees as one of your publics you have to think of them in a dual role: 1) their relationship to the organization which employs them; 2) their relationship as representatives of the organization to the participants in the program. Then you have to consider the kind of work done by the employee. Is his work chiefly maintenance or program, administrative or protective? Is he a boss, a leader, a teacher or a janitor? Whatever his role, he should be trained to see its relationship to the organization as a whole and to the publics that relate to it. Skill,



Do participants enjoy your programs? Here two Chicago children demonstrate good public relations.

philosophy and behavior are important, and should be included in efficiency ratings of each employee. They have bearing on his public relations value.

Try to instill in the maintenance worker the public relations value of cleanliness, orderliness, good sanitary conditions, of physical attractiveness. Program people need to know how much public relations value their leadership has and to be provided with opportunities to improve their leadership skills.

Obtaining the finest public relations results calls for maintaining the best employment practices. Discipline, democracy, opportunity for promotion, elimination of petty rivalries and jealousies, and a continuing and thorough emphasis on the importance of recreation to the individual, should mark all relationships to the employees, so that they in turn may reflect to outsiders the true value of your organization.

Participants

What participants think of your program is the most important part of your public relations. How potential participants can be made to think favorably enough of it to join it is next most important. Your most significant public relations questions are: Is my organization successfully serving those now in its program? Is my organization offering attractive and increasing services to the people in my community in increasing numbers?

Here is a list of searching questions you might answer in evaluating your recreative services. Check your objectivity by passing out similar sets to your best workers, representative residents of

your community and members of your board. Even if you don't care about their opinions, it will be good public relations to ask for them.

Do boys and girls both enjoy your programs? Do they grow physically, mentally, socially through the opportunities offered? Do they feel that they *belong* to your program and your organization? Do they feel that, at least in part, your organization *belongs* to them? Do they pride themselves on what they accomplish? Do they come back to visit? Do they join new programs for older age groups as they outgrow those in which they started? Do they volunteer as assistants when they have achieved skill? Do they identify themselves with your organization or agency? Do girls have as great an opportunity as boys to participate? Do retired and elderly people feel at home in club rooms of their own or in other parts of the program? Do you suffer from vandalism? Do parents respect your judgment in leadership?

Do youngsters attend merely because they have no other places to go? Is this true of elderly people? Do they come because they want to, because they enjoy coming? Do they bring friends? Is the shy girl or boy encouraged to join in with others? Is there variety great enough to give every youngster a chance to do something he likes? Do you see to it that special attention is given to the needs of specific age groups? Do you see to it that participants are treated as individuals or are they just part of the "army"? Do you cooperate with clubs, veterans groups, service organizations, hobby groups, and so on? Are your facilities available and widely used by allied organizations which have no facilities of their own? Do you try to give equal opportunities to all who come to your organization for recreation? Do you make an effort to discover groups that you are not serving?

Publicity

Plenty of good textbooks have been written on the mechanics of publicity. The main point to remember is that publicity is only a part of the whole public relations picture; that it is a means of gaining attention; that it is a temporary means

of spreading information, a poor means of education. It is healthy to remember that yesterday's newspaper wraps today's garbage and that the words said over the air are even less lasting in their effect. Public opinion polls have proved this time and time again.

When you get beyond newspaper and radio publicity, you may find other activities of more consistent value. Providing an information center where the facts about all recreation activities in your community can be easily obtained is a good public service. Service is generally appreciated; ballyhoo is winked at and forgotten. You should keep your activities before local service clubs, church clubs, PTA's, school assemblies, fraternal organizations and community councils. Here's where your board members may fit in—as speakers for your organization. You yourself must be ready to preach the gospel at every opportunity, and personal contact and acquaintances carry much weight.

One of your important publics is the group through whom you have to work to obtain publicity. Study the newspaper men and women, the radio program directors and announcers, as you would any of your publics. They are important—since, despite everything, your organization will be judged by some, probably publicity-seeking board members, largely on the number of inches of newspaper publicity you can capture and the number of minutes or hours you have had of radio time.

The substance of a broad, sound public relations program is just common sense. Emphasis is placed where it belongs, on a basis of human relationships. What its various publics do and think about the organization is what counts. The practitioners of recreation have a responsibility to themselves, as well as to the men and women, boys and girls they serve, to achieve recognition and to teach the need for recreation opportunities. Recreation in the minds of the multitude must grow out of its delinquency prevention stage and be recognized broadly as essential to the proper growth of people socially, mentally and physically.

A Congress Story

LARRY EISENBERG, telling a story at the Recreation Congress: "The hunters were fast on his trail, but the lion shook them off. He sneaked into his cave, and—sitting down comfortably—he picked up RECREATION magazine and started to read. By the way, have you all renewed your subscriptions? He did."

Knives from Scrap

Irene Scott

WHEN WALTER STEWART retired after a lifetime of farming and ranching, his family and friends said to themselves, "It won't be long now," meaning that a man who is pushing seventy can't just quit work and live. As Gramps (only the income tax collector calls him Mr. Stewart) says: "Life is sure puzzling. On the farm, after a hard day's work, I'd have to chore a couple of hours and then maybe empty ashes or bring in coal. Here, in town, where time's awasting, all I do is walk around and push buttons."

The change was pretty tough the first year, and he became a little griped with hanging around doctors' offices and prescription counters. One morning he 'phoned the nurse that he wouldn't be in that day, threw the medicine bottles and pills away, and started dusting off his tools. Suddenly he remembered that all his life he'd had a yen to make knives.

Living at the foot of the Rockies, where trees must constantly be cut from highways and irrigation ditches, most people burn a few logs, if only in the fireplace. Consequently, cross saws—which make good knife blades—abound. Then, too, there are always old hand saws at auctions, junk yards and second-hand stores. So, super blade material can be had for a song.

The next essential item is handles. Here Gramps really has fun and adventure. Stumbling over an old wagon wheel, he found spokes of seasoned hardwood, and made some "dillies" from them. A discarded hickory axe handle caught his eye and ended on a blade; and red spruce makes a smooth handle, too. The most novel handles, however, are made from deer horns. In this big game country, many people have antlers hanging in their garage or basement, relegated there when the sportsman of the family bagged a better specimen for the den or living room. The younger generation swap horns like marbles, and few families are without them.

When Gramps expressed an interest in these horns, he was immediately deluged with more

than he could use. He explains, "A deer horn shouldn't be too old or weathered. Best time is within two years after killing. Unseasoned horns are too full of marrow. However, when horns have been kept in enclosures they are OK, although twenty years old. There's a lot of waste because many of the prongs are too crooked to use. I've got to have straight sides to work with."

Bone has no grain, so will saw straight without splitting. A few applications of wax complete attractive gray, cream, white or variegated handles. Gramps works the wooden handles down with an eighteen-inch wood rasp, and then finishes up with a smaller file. These handles are allowed to simmer in a can of raw linseed oil for several hours; then they are painted, varnished or waxed.

In his headquarters in the furnace room, he marks out the prospective blade pattern with a chisel, puts it in a vise and, holding it with pinchers or pliers, bends the metal back and forth until the "blade" cracks along the chiseled lines. Then he works it into acceptable form with his emery wheel. Not all the blades extend to the end of the handle, but they must extend at least two and a half inches between the handle halves to allow for riveting. He tempers the handle end of the blade over an open flame, after wrapping the cutting part in a wet cloth, to keep it from breaking when he punches holes in it.

The cost of this hobby is nil—maybe ten cents for each knife—because most of the stuff is just picked up or given to Gramps. He gets about five heavy butcher knives and five average knives out of a cross-cut saw, while an ordinary hand saw will yield about sixteen paring knives. It takes about seven hours to make a twelve-inch knife.

A disabled vet who operates in the locality asks store prices for Gramps' wares, although he has no need of money. What he wants and gets is companionship—the neighboring women are very interested in him and in his knives. Just ask his wife about his hobby!

Oakland, California

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, with a population of approximately 430,000 people, is situated on San Francisco Bay overlooking the Golden Gate. That it more than doubled its population between 1900 and 1910 is readily understandable. A reputable history of the city reveals that the week after the San Francisco earthquake, about 150,000 people crossed the Bay. Having once lived in this environment of natural beauty, 65,000 became permanent residents. This great influx of new residents undoubtedly was one of the factors which influenced Oakland to become the second city in the west to install a playground system. This grew into the Oakland Recreation Department, which has progressed and flourished throughout the past forty-two years.

Agitation for a public recreation commission developed as early as 1907, the year after the Playground and Recreation Association of America was formed. During the summer months of 1907 and 1908 a play instructor was employed by a progressive organization of women, the Oakland Club, to supervise and teach games on two school grounds in the city. Because of the good results of these efforts, a playground commission of five members was appointed by the mayor in December, 1908. In addition, \$600 was donated to the commission from the City Emergency Fund for the purpose of conducting a vacation playground during the summer months of 1909.

George E. Dickie, now coordinator for the Federal Inter-Agency Recreation Committee, was Oakland's first superintendent of recreation. He was appointed to direct the vacation playgrounds in May, 1909, with a staff of four women direc-

tors. A new charter was put into effect in 1911 and under its terms the playground commission, known as the Board of Playground Directors, was organized and given the right of control and management of all playgrounds owned and operated by the city. All of these, at that time, were located in city parks and school yards.

A committee study on the recreation efforts of the Oakland Board of Education and the Board of Playground Directors resulted in a working agreement, drawn up in 1914, providing for a joint recreation program. Under the agreement, all school areas became playgrounds, the school buildings became community centers, and the work of the playground directors was a continuation of that of the school teachers. This agreement still remains essentially the same as when originally created, and it stands as a living tribute to the fine working relationships and cooperation that have existed between these two civic bodies for almost half a century.

Dr. Jay B. Nash, who is now a professor of education at New York University, succeeded Mr. Dickie as superintendent of the department in 1919, continuing in this capacity until July, 1926, when he resigned to join the University staff. Raymond W. Robertson, assistant superintendent under Dr. Nash, then took over the position. Following his retirement in August, 1946, he was succeeded by Robert W. Crawford. It is significant to note that a department with nearly a half century of service has had only four superintendents. Any national reputation and recognition of Oakland's recreation department can be largely attributed to the foresight, vision and courage of

Lake Merritt, in city,
is scene of many enjoy-
able recreation ventures.



these men who made a lasting contribution to the expansion of the program now in operation.

Progress

In 1919 the Industrial Athletic Association of Oakland was formed, with the cooperation of the recreation department. Today, approximately sixty of the outstanding firms in the city are members of this association and conduct a well-rounded recreation program for their employees.

Another big step forward took place in 1921 and 1924 when the city's two mountain family camps were opened. One is in Tuolumne County—150 miles from Oakland—and the other is in Plumas County—225 miles away. Here entire families can have restful, relaxing vacations at moderate rates, with activities available to suit each member.

When land for a public golf course was purchased in 1921, there was great opposition on the part of some citizens to the construction of a course "where the rich could idle away their time." However, there was sufficient public interest in the idea that golf should become a game for persons of moderate income to make the project possible, and the Lake Chabot Golf Course was opened for play in 1923.

During the years 1926 to 1946, Oakland, like every other city in the nation, went through a major depression and then five years of war. Through the aid of the Federal Government, though, many new facilities were acquired in the depression years of 1934 to 1939. It was during those years that Davie Tennis Stadium, with a battery of five night-lighted courts, and a care-

taker's house, was constructed in an abandoned quarry in the heart of the city. This stadium is one of the outstanding tennis plants in the country and some of the great tennis players of the nation have been developed here. Frequent players on the courts include well-known professionals such as Don Budge and Frank Kovacs.

Also constructed during this time was a large recreation area—Arroyo Viejo Recreation Center—containing picnic grounds, softball and hardball diamonds, tennis courts, a clubhouse, a garden theater, games' courts and a children's area. One of the largest playgrounds in the city, it is situated in the section of Oakland that has since become densely populated. Other depression projects were Montclair Playground, a well-equipped and beautifully landscaped municipal playground; Exposition Field, with its three night-lighted softball diamonds; Park Boulevard Clubhouse, the sailboat house, and the golf course clubhouse.

Many other improvements were made at this time, but during the war no facilities were constructed. As the population in the last eight years has increased by 125,000, it has been necessary to plan a wide program of expansion in both facilities and leadership. This accelerated development has been in progress since the end of hostilities.

Recently-built facilities, now in operation, include two clubhouses, one gymnasium, four tot lots for pre-school children (making nine of these in the city), an outdoor amphitheater, additional camp facilities, a model airplane field, more lighted tennis courts, turfed hardball and lighted softball diamonds, and swimming pools. Also, five playgrounds have been floodlighted.

When, in 1945, the people of Oakland passed a bond issue for playgrounds and other recreation facilities, funds were voted for the construction of five swimming pools in different parts of the city. Four of these pools were completed by July, 1949, and are now being used. Operated by the recreation department, the pools are fifty by a hundred feet in size. One of them is located on land given the city by residents of the North Oakland area. Adjoining the pool is a large building which once served as a dormitory for a children's home, and which was included in the gift. It is now being remodeled to serve as a recreation center for this section.

Much of this growth was made possible when the state legislature passed a bill permitting school districts to grant long term leases to cities and towns for recreation improvements. Other projects now under construction include more playfields and a new playground with clubhouses and facilities for all ages. Other planned facilities are on the drawing board and it's anticipated that they will develop into realities in the near future.

Organization and Staff

Organized as an autonomous unit of city government, the Oakland Recreation Department is under the jurisdiction of the Board of Playground Directors—composed of five lay men and women who serve without compensation and who are appointed for six-year terms by the City Council. At present, Lew F. Galbraith, civic leader, is president of the board and Mrs. Ralph T. (Margaret Merriam) Fisher, formerly a staff member of the National Recreation Association, is vice-chairman. Other members are Miss Eva Ott, elementary school principal, Joshua R. Rose, executive secretary of a local YMCA, and Fred Maggiora, business man. The City Council appropriates money for the board's use and any funds remaining unused at the end of the fiscal year are placed in a reserve fund under the sole control of the board, whose policy has been to use these reserves for capital improvements.

Heading the department is a superintendent of recreation, who is directly responsible to the Board of Playground Directors. On his administrative staff are an administrative assistant and four general supervisors of recreation. Each of the general supervisors has a specific assignment—one is in charge of city-wide program, another is responsible for construction of new facilities, another handles industrial athletics and adult recreation, and one is in charge of special activities, such as camping, crafts, dramatics and teen-age

center events, and the like.

Full-time playground directors are assigned to the recreation centers and to the larger and more important municipal playgrounds. Several full-time directors also serve as resident directors at community centers. The greatest number of playground directors employed by the department—some four hundred—are part-time workers who do not serve more than an average of thirty hours a week. These directors are paid by the hour under emergency civil service appointments. All full-time employees are in civil service, and have taken examinations in order to qualify for their positions.

Last year the recreation department had an operating budget of \$802,000—quite different from the original \$600 appropriation! Of this amount, \$662,000 was granted by the City Council—to whom the board submits a budget—and the balance was made up of earnings of the various pay-as-you-play facilities and activities in the city. Revenue-raising facilities include the municipal golf course, boating and canoeing on Lake Merritt (a large salt water lake in the heart of the city, covering about 160 acres), camps, the tennis stadium, swimming pools, and permit fees for softball diamonds, tennis courts, clubhouses and gymnasiums.

Facilities and Program

Oakland's recreation facilities are established to meet the needs of citizens of all ages. They include thirteen municipal playgrounds, forty-eight elementary and seventeen secondary school playgrounds, four community centers, three housing project playgrounds. The municipal playgrounds are open 365 days a year.

Eight camps are operated during the summer months—two family vacation camps, two children's mountain camps—one for boys and one for girls—an in-town, overnight children's camp, two children's day camps, and a day camp for handicapped children. The last is a new project and is being conducted in cooperation with community groups who are interested in these children.

The recreation program is based on the desires of the people it serves. Activities are too numerous to mention, but range from services to tiny tots to the gigantic production of the Christmas pageant. Basically, the criteria for evaluation of the program is what happens to the people as a result of their participation. Since the success of the program is measured in terms of its effectiveness, it is imperative that the areas and facilities be under competent, trained, understanding

A storytelling session at recreation department day camp for boys and girls in Dimond Park.



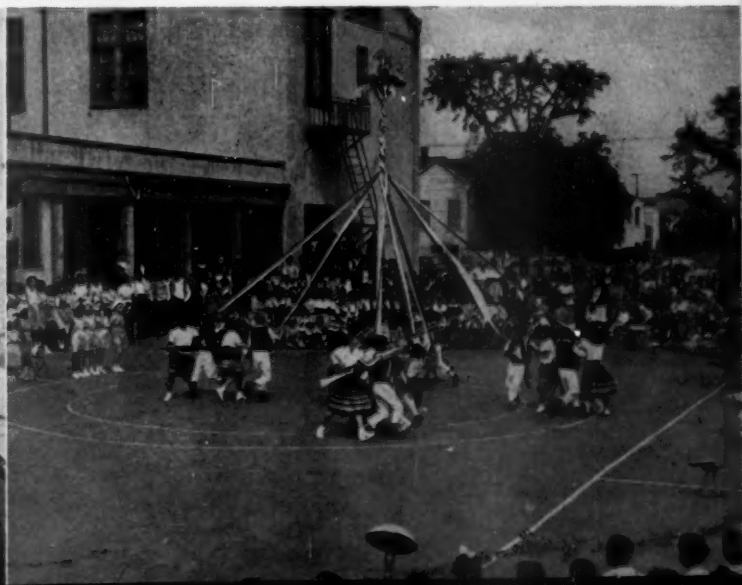
A glimpse of Hawaii and authentic native dances is part of Alexander Community Center spring festival.

Swimming pool at Tuolumne Camp in Nevada Sierras, where whole families have chance to play together.



Community centers, Industrial Athletic Association offer classes in crafts, dramatics, other activities.

Gay Maypole dances are popular in spring festivals. Children play together regardless of race or creed.



and sympathetic leaders.

For the school-age child there are athletics, music, crafts, drama, camping—all offering opportunities for them to play, share, and even live with each other. A very interesting part of this program, and an unusual one for a recreation department, is the inclusion of crew activities for children from the various playgrounds. Playground directors are given a rigid course of instruction and are certified for this activity before they are allowed to enter a boat with children. At the end of the season a regatta is held, a very colorful event looked forward to by all the rowers and parents. Crew also extends beyond children's groups and we find that adults, as well as members of the Industrial Athletic Association, have included this activity as a regular part of their program.

A special program of clubs for teen-age boys and girls has been set up by the recreation department, organized on a neighborhood basis whereby they can take part in social gatherings such as dancing, picnics, an athletic program, and so on. The Teen-Age Council, made up of representatives from teen-age clubs in the city, serves as a clearing house where the young people may discuss city-wide, as well as local, club problems and events. Annual teen conferences add strength to this phase of the program.

Adult classes include crafts, dramatics, sewing, cooking, folk dancing and many other activities, offered through the community centers and the Industrial Athletic Association. This association also offers men and women a wide variety of leisure-time sports. Enjoyment of the department's folk dancing and hiking programs encourages the promotion of these activities, either through active leadership or in an advisory capacity. Folk dance groups are conducted for beginners, intermediates and advanced dancers, and occasionally all join in large demonstrations where it is not uncommon

to see from 1,500 to 2,000 gaily-costumed dancers going through intricate maneuvers.

A very popular service is provided by the costume department, which aids playgrounds, public schools, children's agencies and the like in their non-profit and educational dramatic programs. There are more than 10,000 costumes in the costume shop—almost all made by recreation department employees. The small fee charged for the rental of costumes covers laundry charges.

One of the department's outstanding program events is the annual Christmas pageant, presented in the Municipal Auditorium with 12,000 spectators and 1,600 children taking part. The pageant is accepted by the people of Oakland as symbolic of the opening of the holiday season, and tickets are at a premium for its performance. A two-hour production called "The Light of the World," the pageant traces the spiritual development of man from the age of darkness to the birth of Christ.

A fairly new feature of the department is the program for senior citizens, designed to serve the recreation needs of those over sixty years of age. The desire of older people to get together with those of similar age and interests is great, and every recreation department in the country should investigate the possibilities of providing a program suitable for this group.

Last year, the recreation department served more than two and a half million patrons on the playgrounds and in the community centers. Another 74,250 adults were served by the Industrial Athletic Association, and these did not include the thousands who made use of the tennis courts, ball diamonds and picnic areas.

Oakland has grown, and is growing rapidly. Judging from the interest and support of the people, the Oakland Recreation Department will continue to keep pace with the growing city, providing for the leisure of all.

Clever Use of Reprints

REPRINTS OF "The Story of American Cities in Recreation—Part III," which appeared in RECREATION last December, were incorporated as a part of the annual report of the Recreation Commission of Mount Vernon, New York, "to serve as background information for the list of activities and attendance figures." The article, reviewing the history and giving an overall picture of recreation in that community, was originally prepared by R. Walter Cammack, Superintendent of Recreation of Mount Vernon.

RECREATION—*Its Meaning for Youth*

HARRY D. EDGREN

TODAY I AM using the term "recreation" to signify those activities youth choose in their leisure, where the joy is "in the doing," where the satisfaction of the activity is the only compulsion for participation.

To ascribe to youth certain interpretations of recreation is a bit dangerous, but if they were responding to the question, "Why do you like certain activities?" or "What do you get out of them?" I am quite certain their answers would include some of the following: "I make friends there!" "Our club is going on this hike," or "The girls are all going," and most of them would say, "It's fun!"

Young people who give these answers have had an exhilarating experience, unbounded joy and the fun of participating with friends in activities to which they were able to give themselves with complete freedom. The result for them is expressed in the word "fun". To me the reaction of "it was fun" is a result of other things which happened and which youth has been unable to analyze.

If certain factors were not present, the result would not have been fun. Some of these are: 1) being accepted and wanted by others of the same age; 2) making new friends, and the real fellowship of old friends; 3) the complete escape when an activity is interesting and all-consuming; 4) the recognition that is given by others when your contribution is applauded and praised; and 5) the sense of personal worth that accompanies growth

and the sense of achievement in the development of a new skill. These, it seems to me, are the ingredients that add up to make recreation "fun".

Unfortunately, these ingredients and the result, "fun," are all too frequently not experienced by many youth in our present organized recreation. We have done well in offering opportunities for recreation to those who excel. The varsity teams of our elementary and high schools, the glee clubs and orchestras of our private agencies, the champion tennis player in community recreation, all have many opportunities to have fun. This, however, is less than ten percent of the youth of most of our communities. Then there are another twenty percent who respond to the invitation to learn skills in classes, to become members of recreation clubs

The Midcentury White House Conference on Children and Youth, which will be held in Washington the week of December 3, 1950, "bases its concern for children on the primacy of spiritual values, democratic practice, and the dignity and worth of every individual. Accordingly its purpose shall be to consider how we can develop in children the mental, emotional and spiritual qualities essential to individual happiness and to responsible citizenship."

As recreation plays so large a part in the lives of our young people, state and local recreation leaders are urged to get in touch with state committees, already appointed in sixteen states, or with proper state authorities where such committees are being formed. They also should be alert to community developments and participate in them.

and to participate in the intramural program of our schools or the invitational tournaments in our communities.

But what about the remaining seventy percent? They have the same wants, desires, and aspirations as the others, but they do not respond to the opportunities offered them, and organized recreation leaders have acted as though they don't want to have fun. Yet they do but, because of the conflict between their wants and their fears, they remain away. (Incidentally, realization of this fact is terrifically important to leaders of recreation.) These fears might arise from lack of skill which the young people feel will be embarrassing, or from inability to make friends, or just from lack of an adventurous spirit.

Let me be more specific in describing a few

The author, Harry D. Edgren, is professor of recreation at George Williams College in Chicago, Illinois.

experiences which identify the reasons for some of the fears preventing many young people from enjoying recreation activities.

1. Two girls were advised by a social worker to attend a stag dance at an institutional church in their neighborhood. Attending the dance, sitting alone throughout most of the evening, they left with a decision never to return to that place.

2. Alice, a not too agile girl, reports to her first gymnasium class in school. Because of her awkwardness she is told to sit and watch while all the other girls have a good time. She is an example of the daughter for whom thousands of mothers now secure doctor's certificates excusing them from gymnasium for some alleged physical disability.

3. Tony is typical of many youngsters who repeatedly try out for a school or community team only to find that they are just below the height the coach has set as a minimum—or some other arbitrary reason not connected with skill or ability.

4. Joe loves baseball, but each time he is around, when the two captains (always the best players) choose sides, he is chosen last and permitted to stand and wait while the captains decide who will take him. He is finally told to report to right field and he may or may not get his turn to bat if someone more able shows up.

What, then, could recreation mean to some of our youth? First, it could mean the opportunity to participate in a great variety of experiences, all of which have their unique contribution. These would include outdoor nature activities, arts and crafts, the dance, athletics, music, dramatics, and the hobbies of collecting and creating. These activities would be offered at beginner, average and advanced levels of skill. This variety also can give individuals new experiences so much needed in our mechanical world.

Secondly, recreation can and should provide for youth the opportunity for group experience with others who have the same interests. Recreation's great opportunity is to help youth make and keep friends. Some of us feel that the experience of being in a group and being accepted, and the accompanying sense of belonging, is more important than the activity itself. Our mental health people tell us that it is very important that all people have a sense of belonging and of being part of groups, if life is to be very meaningful.

Recreation should also provide young people with a sense of release from the tensions and concerns of modern life. Opportunity for such release usually is provided in those activities where, in complete absorption, they may cut loose with

abandon, and provide a real escape from other routine phases of life.

Recreation may give individuals recognition and the personal sense of worth that comes from accomplishment. This happens when individuals or groups express a desire to be officers, or members of a committee, and when they increase their own skill and ability and know that they are advancing and progressing. Belief in one's self is important to full living, to becoming independent and to developing into an emotionally mature adult.

Yes, recreation, when adequately conducted, can fill these essential needs. If recreation programs do not provide such opportunities, many of our young people will not experience them. Our schools do not adequately fill them. Dr. Brink, of Northwestern University, informs us that 553 out of every 1,000 high school youth leave school each year because they do not find high school interesting. We also know that many vocations and jobs, because of their routine nature, do not permit youth to be much more than a number receiving a salary with which to provide food, shelter and clothing. They must go elsewhere to find the real satisfaction of rich living. These facts give support to the concept that recreation is essential and, with this fact goes an accompanying responsibility, an obligation as well as an opportunity to use our organized agency recreation, as well as family recreation, in ways which will be most productive and satisfying to the youth of our country.

Youth needs and wants adults like you to join with them in a cooperative effort to secure the kind of facilities, leadership and recreation programs in homes, churches, schools, and public and private agencies, that will provide the caliber of program which will meet this need and aid in fulfilling their hopes, desires and aspirations. All that I have said identifies the role of leadership in recreation. In short, it suggests that leadership be more concerned with whom the individuals are and what happens to them through recreation activities. This is very effectively shown in the movie "Leaders for Leisure," which is available from the Athletic Institute, 209 South State Street, Chicago 4, Illinois.

When we have done our part, then we can feel with the Chinese poet, Wang Wei, who, when asked the definition of supreme happiness here below, said, "I am old, I have not traveled very far, but this one thing I know. You ask me what is the supreme happiness here below? It is watching a little boy go whistling down the road after he has asked me the way."

Music and Drama in Program

NICOLETTA URIUOLI

Presented at the New York State Recreation Conference

IT HAS OFTEN been said that, in order to have a well-rounded recreation program, music and drama should be included for those individuals not interested in physical activities. This is very true, but we can go a step further, for there are many who, no matter what other interests they may have, are anxious to acquaint themselves with varied and cultural activities, such as music, dancing, drama, or crafts. A director must be aware of this need and of its importance in his entire program. A recreation program should be community-wide, year-round and have broad appeal, with the interests and needs of all age groups recognized. It may not be possible to embark immediately upon a program that is all-inclusive, but there should be continuous advancement in this direction.

Of primary importance in setting up a music and drama program is competent leadership. Next, ideally, facilities should be attractively and properly planned and easily accessible, with adequate budget provided for maintenance and operating costs. However, we often find that we must make the best of available buildings and facilities. The thing to remember in this case is that even with good buildings and adequate supplies, poor leadership can be the downfall of a program, while other programs with poor facilities and good leadership manage to survive.

Special activities in the field of either music or drama fall into two categories: community activities, using some professionals, and capable of becoming self-supporting, and program carried on within the playground or recreation center and financed by the recreation budget.

Drama

There is a little bit of the actor in us all, and all of us are certainly audience-minded. Plays are inspirational and educational; plays are recreational, giving idle hands something to do, taking

tired minds away from worries. They open magic doors for all, starting with the child on the playground who can enter the land of "make-believe" by acting out stories, a natural outgrowth of the story hour. Plays created by the children themselves—simple skits, pantomimes, and one-act plays—may be performed very successfully on the playground, and will give children an opportunity for using imagination and expressing originality. Even inexperienced recreation leaders have little difficulty producing plays of this kind with the aid of available production books. For older children and adults, more ambitious plays may be attempted after some preliminary training in producing short plays, or if trained leadership in this field is available.

To the program of informal and formal plays can be added local talent programs with dramatic skits, stunts, and the acting out of ballads. A number of cities also include a traveling theatre—a stage on wheels which goes from playground to playground, carrying properties and actors. Traveling puppet shows are very popular and appealing. The puppet theatre can be very simple in construction, made either from wooden or cardboard boxes. Construction of the puppets themselves comprises a fascinating handcraft activity. No body is required for the hand puppet and the costume is made large enough to admit the operator's hand. For the string marionette, the bodies are made of soft wood, then dressed, and after some practice manipulating the strings, plays are attempted.

Crafts programs are correlated with these drama programs, aiding with scenery, costumes, and properties. Festivals and pageants also take a place of importance in the recreation dramatics program. These might include May Day festivals, Spring festivals, drama festivals, Christmas pageants, ice carnivals, or pageants used as closing events of the playground season. These, too, are correlated with the activities and phases of the overall recreation program—crafts, music, dancing, and games.

Mrs. Uriuoli is supervisor of dancing and music for the Syracuse, New York, Recreation Department.

Music

A musical group, aside from being a unique portion of the recreation program, can also supplement its various other phases. Music gives delight, and enriches any experience with which it is associated, strengthens morale, makes for a feeling of sociability, and opens doors for self-expression. It embraces all ages and all degrees of skill, from a rhythm band to a symphony concert group, from community singing groups to trained choruses. Also, music is the source of many types of enjoyment—for many there is as deep a satisfaction in listening as there is in creating. Discussion of the music program can be divided into vocal and instrumental.

Vocal—The simplest and most spontaneous of musical activities, requiring little or no leadership, is the informal singing group. Next comes community singing, where a "responsive chord" is struck in nearly everyone. A good leader is essential and a piano or some musical accompaniment helps. With trained leadership, choruses can be organized among all ages and both sex groups—for example, a men's or women's or mixed chorus. For these, quartets and other special groups can be developed. Recently there has been a great surge to revive the barber shop quartets. An organization known as the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing has organized groups across the country. Also, industrial recreation programs have shown a definite trend toward musical as well as dramatic activities.

Instrumental—Let's start with the rhythm band. Those instruments most commonly used are the drum, triangle, tamborine, cymbals, rhythm sticks, jungle sticks, wood blocks and bells. (A note to the crafts-minded—possible additions or substitutions are horseshoes, or railroad spikes, for triangles; round cereal boxes for drums; sand blocks; and combs with tissue paper to carry melody hummed on them.) More modern equipment will include a portable phonograph and a supply of good music with marked rhythm. Next can be developed tonette groups, harmonica bands, a drum and bugle corps. Concert groups can be organized from a nucleus of those interested. Of course, as for the choral groups, trained leadership is essential. It is an activity that will bring together a cross-section of people who probably would have no other mutual interests. An outgrowth of the music program will be music festivals, band concerts, symphony concerts, operettas, and radio programs.

In addition to the vocal and instrumental por-



Drama is greatly enjoyed as part of program in seventy-five fieldhouses of the Chicago Park District.

tions of the program, music appreciation and interpretation can be a part of the overall music picture. Music interpretation provides a satisfying experience for the young, especially since it combines music with physical activity. The listener interprets the music in bodily action, responding to rhythm and mood—skipping, running, or swaying. Folk dancing also provides a rich musical and physical activity experience. Here dancing, singing, and instrumental music are combined.

Music appreciation clubs can be organized. Under guidance, members come to appreciate and understand the best in music. Stories of composers, operas, pictures illustrating the writer's native country, all provide a background that will enrich listening enjoyment. The recreation department should also take advantage of funds available through the American Federation of Musicians for professional musicians to present concerts sponsored by the department at little expense.

To our first question, "*For whom* is the music and drama program planned?" we add another, "*Why* is a music and drama program planned?" Our answer is a synopsis, for much could be said on these points.

For whom we ask, and find the answer evident—for all, from young to old, from the unskilled to the highly skilled. And why? Does it not seem logical that the outlet for originality, for self-expression and interpretation, for activity and cooperation with others is well-worth planning? Has it not been seen that the lessons learned in these activities help us to appreciate a little more the "next fellow's" efforts? When we realize that the answer to these questions is yes, then our efforts toward a more complete, all-encompassing program increase a thousandfold.

World at Play

Santa Wears a Dress!—At least that seems to be the case in Port Chester, New York, where Santa Claus answers to the name of Miss Doris Russell, Superintendent of Recreation there. It all started when Miss Russell initiated a toy making and repairing project a few years ago. Each Christmas, since then, she and many enthusiastic volunteers have been collecting donated toys, repairing and repainting them, and distributing them to Port Chester youngsters. Last year, she helped brighten the holiday season for some 500 boys and girls. Little wonder then that whenever the post office receives any local mail addressed to the bearded gent from the North Pole it immediately sends it on to Lady Claus.



Leadership Club—The University of Wisconsin, in Madison, boasts a campus organization—known as the Recreation Leadership Club—open to all students carrying a major or minor in community leadership in recreation, and to other students who indicate a specific interest in professional aspects of recreation. The dues are one dollar a year and meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. The purpose of the club is to promote good social relationships among members; to maintain professional contacts with professional recreation leaders who are active in the field; to work for continuous improvement of the recreation curriculum; and to keep abreast of progress and opportunities in the broad fields of recreation leadership throughout the world.

To date, it lists among its accomplishments maintenance of active programs and meetings for members during the past two years; sponsorship of a party last March for students from all over the United States attending the Student Government Symposium; as well as cooperation with the Governor's Conference on Children and Youth by offering exhibits and entertainment to the 1,300 delegates who attended the May, 1949 event. In addition, the club has also co-sponsored, with the University YMCA and YWCA, a successful Camp Counselor's Training Institute on campus.

Its plans for the future are also very ambitious. Primarily, the Recreation Leadership Club hopes

to continue its prominent position on the Wisconsin campus through the work of its program, membership, publicity, professional relations, curriculum and campus relations committees.



Professionals Pitch In—America's sandlotters will be better trained next year than any time in history! That statement comes from the National Baseball Congress which bases its prediction on the fact that professional baseball will be sponsoring coaching clinics in over 200 cities in thirty states, from January 23 to February 4, to train amateur coaches—including those from town, industrial and school teams.

Cooperating with the National Association of Professional Leagues in this undertaking—in which more than 10,000 coaches are slated to attend—are the sixteen major league clubs, National Federation of High School Athletic Associations, American Legion Junior Baseball Program, National Baseball Congress of America, American Baseball Congress and National Amateur Baseball Federation. Instructors will include past and present professional managers, coaches and players. For additional information, write to Robert L. Finch, director, National Association of Professional Leagues, 693 E. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio.

Christmas Shoppers:

How many of your friends will be receiving subscriptions to RECREATION magazine this Christmas? It's a wonderful gift to give and to receive for each month, throughout the year, RECREATION offers a complete variety of program suggestions, how-to-do and play materials, news items, helpful hints for individual as well as group recreation. The price is just right, too—only three dollars for a year's subscription and no tax! Send in your order now and, while you're at it, you can Christmas-gift yourself by renewing your own subscription.

LOCAL BOARDS

In Park and Recreation Programs

PROBLEMS OLD AND NEW OF LOCAL BOARD MEMBERS

Summary of New Orleans Congress Meeting by Mrs. Stuart LeRoy Anderson

THERE IS AN OLD proverb that says, "We can let our problems drown us or we can take them out and give them swimming lessons." I am sure that all members of local boards are aware that their problems are many. But, certainly, on the part of those attending this National Recreation Congress, there is a determination that those problems will not overcome them—rather, that constructive efforts will be made toward their effective solution.

In our discussion group five problem questions relevant to all local boards, whether representative of large or small population areas, were presented and were followed by general comments from different members of the group.

The first question covered the qualities that distinguished the good board members from the poor ones. Should a citizen be appointed to the board because he shows skill or interest in one particular phase of recreation? Are members appointed under political pressure apt to prove themselves outstanding?

It was felt that a good board member would have these major qualifications: a real dedication to the cause and principles of sound recreation, a sympathetic understanding of individuals and groups participating, and a determination, as nearly as possible, to bring all phases of recreation to the citizens of his community. A good board member will have won the honor and respect of his community through his leadership and by his own way of life before he is appointed, and during his term of office will continue to act so that he

will deserve the confidence which the people have placed in him. Certainly a board member should not promote just one phase of recreation to the exclusion of others. This would work for competition of interests and would not promote a harmonious, well-balanced and coordinated program. Also, all pressure, if possible, should be eliminated in the selection of board members. A member should feel his responsibility to the great mass of taxpayers and not to any one particular group.

The second question dealt with the principles that should guide the board in its relations with the administrative executive. The general feeling was that, as a board, it is our obligation to secure the very best trained, well-qualified person for the executive position; then respect his judgment and vision; give him an opportunity to put an aggressive program into action; back him to the limit.

In considering the third problem, "What inexpensive means can be used advantageously to broaden the recreation viewpoint of board members?" leaders spoke of the great value of a survey of the local situation being made by an outside expert. For a nominal fee a consultant can analyze the community, making a comparison with other localities, and present a constructive long-range plan with certain goals toward which the local board may work in years to come.

Greater cooperation between education and recreation boards and staffs was the subject of the fourth period of discussion. Certainly the trend is in the direction of a more coordinated program between school and municipality. Members of school boards and superintendents are being drawn in as members of recreation boards. There

Mrs. Anderson is the president of the Long Beach Recreation Commission, Long Beach, California.

is a cooperative use of the same facilities and personnel by school and city. This is good management and will insure greater benefits from the tax dollars to the citizens of our communities.

In regard to what board members can do to foster good public relations for the department, it was agreed that every board member should consider himself as an ambassador to carry the good news of the program, and to promote good will for it among the citizens. A board member should accept opportunities to go to groups and present the recreation program. The press and interested individuals should be invited, even urged, to sit in on the board meetings. Hearings

should be allowed individuals and representatives of groups. Newspaper space for articles and pictures should be sought, keeping in mind that an informed public is an interested public.

One of our leaders was very enthusiastic and serious about what he was saying. Just as he was concluding his remarks, he broke forth with, "There's one very important thing, I must say. I believe there should be more women on our boards. The Lord bless the women folks!"

I like that for, sure enough, you can depend on it that the women folks will not let these problems drown them—they will just take them out and give them some good old swimming lessons.

WHAT IS THE PLACE OF CITIZEN BOARDS?

Summary of New Orleans Congress Meeting by Harry S. Wender

IN OUR ever-changing system of municipal governments, we are constantly being confronted with the question concerning the relationship of recreation and park departments to community management as a whole. On the one hand, it has been contended that a single executive, unrestricted by any administrative or advisory board or commission will provide the maximum in efficiency of operation and control of recreation programs and facilities. On the other hand, we find the persuasive proposition that only through active participation by lay citizens on administrative or advisory groups can we expect to establish, maintain and extend a comprehensive recreation program under a democratic system. It was interesting to note that, at the meeting here, not a single delegate could support the first suggestion even on the basis of strict efficiency, for it was the unanimous opinion of all present that citizen participation is a "must". This is particularly true in the field of recreation because of its essentially close relationship to the needs and desires of the people themselves.

The question was then raised as to the relative value of administrative boards or commissions having policy-making and budget-determining

powers as against agencies with only advisory functions. It was the overwhelming consensus of the group that, although advisory groups can perform valuable work through their recommendations to those possessing administrative authority, it has been unquestionably demonstrated that a better job in recreation can be done where the final decision can be made by those who make the recommendations. This is especially true in the larger communities. The advisory method undoubtedly proves satisfactory where no controversial issues arise. When controversies do arise, however, and when advice is not accepted, then trouble starts. Friction develops and board members are prone to resign in indignation out of a sense of frustration and helplessness.

Polls taken at various times during our session were indicative of the kinds of agencies represented at the Congress. Of twenty-two board or commission members attending, seventeen were of the administrative type and five were advisory. The latter represented cities varying from a population of 90,000 in Roanoke, Virginia, to 550,000 in Kansas City. The balance was composed of thirty superintendents of local departments, ten recreation staff leaders, three private agency representatives and two professional educators.

In stressing the importance of cooperation between recreation boards and local boards of

Mr. Wender is the chairman of the District of Columbia Recreation Board in Washington, D. C.

education, to insure mutual use of public facilities, it was brought out that thirty-one communities represented had local administrative or advisory boards. Of these, twenty had direct representation from the board of education while eleven did not. All maintained close relationship between the two agencies.

The vast majority of recreation boards are appointed and work without compensation. Most of these are administrative. It was concluded that a strong, appointed, non-compensated, small administrative board is the most valuable aid to the promotion and development of adequate recreation systems. This citation, quoted by our chairman from the work of Charles Merriam of the University of Chicago, epitomized our thinking on the value of citizen boards versus centralized administration under a single executive:

"We must seek a balance between expert service and popular control. In case of doubt, we should decide in favor of popular control."

A comparison between boards of education and recreation indicates a remarkable similarity of duties and responsibilities, undoubtedly accounting for the great preponderance of recreation and park boards having full administrative authority, in many instances following the exact pattern of independent educational boards.

Wherever the recreation board and the administrative staff work as a team, the board members serve as front runners, meeting opposition and paving the way for successful and efficient accomplishment. The technical staff is relieved of the final responsibility for making policy, but is held accountable, without interference from the citizen board, for carrying out that policy.

The question was raised about those communities where political machines dominate local government and recreation suffers from negligent and improper administration. This brings about the appointment or election of corrupt or incompetent board members and officers lacking adequate interest in or knowledge of recreation problems and their solution. It was our unanimous opinion that our host city, New Orleans, represented an excellent answer to this very real problem in promoting adequate recreation in a number of cities, large and small. What has been done in New Orleans within the last two years under its present enlightened administration is indicative of what any American city can do when the public is aroused and made aware of its government's deficiencies.

The opportunity to improve public recreation remains solely with the electorate, which may have just as good or just as bad an influence on city

management as it may desire through its expression at or away from the ballot box. Those who avoid participating in politics because of a lack of interest must be held personally responsible for what happens, as much as those who pervert our democratic institutions by violating their sacred trust as servants of the public.

The qualifications for citizens serving on administrative and advisory agencies dealing with park and recreation matters reveal that, although in many respects these agencies may be likened to boards of directors of commercial organizations, there are several significant qualities which must be possessed by lay citizens who wish to serve their community to advantage. It is not enough that a man or woman be an intelligent, resourceful individual of high integrity. These requirements are basic. Equally important is the desire to perform unselfish public service and to give sincere devotion to a philosophy which dignifies this special aspect of human relationships and places it on a par with other fundamental responsibilities of good government, such as health, safety and education.

No one can properly serve as a citizen member of a recreation agency without having previously evidenced some tangible interest in the civic development of the community, nor can he or she adequately judge the temper and desires of the citizenry without a compassionate interest in its welfare and well-being. Therefore, it is obvious that board members must possess all the qualities of leadership and must at all times command the respect and support of the community in their work.

Purely administrative functions of boards include, in some instances, the selection of all personnel—although in most cases, only the chief administrative officer is selected—the determination of policies, fixing of fees, regulation of salaries and disbursement of funds. However, there is a much more important responsibility which seldom appears in the legislative authority or executive order spelling out board functions. Every board member is charged with the responsibility of expanding community knowledge of the recreation facilities and programs administered by the board. This public relations function helps maximum use of what we have to offer without extravagant waste of public funds and, at the same time, shows up the inadequacies which warrant public support for improvement.

It was gratifying to learn that the administrative and advisory boards represented by every delegate present invite the public and the press to

their meetings, thereby stimulating interest in and knowledge of their problems and programs. The necessity for promoting public interest in the work and accomplishments of the board, as well as in the department's deficiencies, was stressed. And since appropriations are needed to remedy these deficiencies, the importance of acquainting civic and business organizations with proposed budgets was pointed out as an indispensable means of securing community-wide understanding and support. These were characterized not as "pressure" groups, but rather as "interest" groups.

In the final analysis, recreation sells itself by means of a successfully demonstrated program which the people want and accept as a rightful heritage for themselves and their children. The keystone in any board structure is its public relations, its contact with the people it represents. If that keystone is defective, eventual collapse of the entire structure is inevitable.

(Summaries of other stimulating meetings are presented in the 1949 Congress Proceedings. Order now, and catch up with collective thinking in other areas of recreation work. Price \$2.25.)



The "Big Jump" in Recreation Appeal

Learn About

TRAMPOLINING

Intense Participant-Spectator Interest . . .
Founded by NISSEN, Creator and Pioneer of America's First Standard TRAMPOLINE*

Write for FREE LITERATURE

*Reg. U. S. Pat. Office

NISSEN TRAMPOLINE

200 A AVENUE NW

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

REMINDER

America's Finest Athletic Equipment

is built by

VOIT

for catalog, address:

Dept. R, W. J. VOIT RUBBER CORP.

1600 E. 25th St.

Los Angeles 11, Calif.

*Reg. U. S. Pat. Off.

Mr. Recreation Director:

- Are you satisfied that your community is getting the most out of its recreation dollar? If not, why not consider

Municipal Recreation Administration

This practical correspondence course is especially designed for recreation administrators and leaders who are responsible for the planning and direction of municipal recreation programs.

Available through either individual or group enrollments, this course includes a 516-page textbook, individualized lesson instruction, and certificate upon satisfactory completion. Entire cost \$35.

(Approved under G. I. Bill)

For details write

THE INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING IN MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

Conducted since 1934 by

THE INTERNATIONAL CITY MANAGERS' ASSOCIATION
1313 East 60th Street Chicago 37

Rawlings
ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT

First Choice for Every Sport!

Available Thru Leading Athletic Goods Distributors

Rawlings Athletic Equipment
THE FINEST IN THE FIELD!
MANUFACTURING COMPANY • ST. LOUIS 3, MO.

A NEW REPORT *and How to Use It*

Stephen H. Mahoney

OVER THE PERIOD of the past year and a half; it has been the privilege of the writer to work with ten other recreation executives from several sections of the country in formulating a set of standards for leadership positions in the recreation field. In its relatively brief period of existence, recreation leadership has reached a professional status which necessitates the use of personnel standards for the maintenance of its proper position among the careers of service which are open to ambitious men and women throughout the land.

In recognition of the need for standards, the National Recreation Association, through a committee of recreation executives, published a standards report in 1929; and in 1935, 1938, and 1944 other committees adjusted the standards to meet the conditions which existed in those respective periods. The rapid growth and development of recreation since the close of the last war have stressed the need for standards which befit the current trend in the profession.

Personnel Standards in Recreation Leadership is the result of the deliberation and suggestions of a representative group of recreation leaders, and presents not only the ideas of committee members, but of those with whom they have consulted as to the duties, qualifications and proper compensation for positions at different levels in the recreation field. There was evident, throughout the period of the committee's work, an attitude on the part of each member to work unitedly toward ideals which would benefit the whole recreation movement. This same attitude, we hope, will be manifested by all recreation workers in the utilization of the report. After all, such a report and its recommendations will amount to very little unless the standards which have been set up are used for the purpose of advancing the profession.

For the most part, this use will be at the local level of recreation organization. The executive should bring it to the attention of the members of his board or commission. He should make sure that it is in the hands of the personnel officer, members of the city council and the mayor or city manager. It is gratifying to learn that Mayor

Morrison of New Orleans, host to the recent National Recreation Congress, was so enthusiastic about *Personnel Standards in Recreation Leadership* that he sent a personal letter in commendation of it to the mayors of cities throughout the country.

The report can also be of much value in the sphere of public relations. Every recreation executive knows that an interested and alerted citizenry is one of his greatest allies and, in the standards report, he has a potent instrument to help in securing competent leadership for his department.

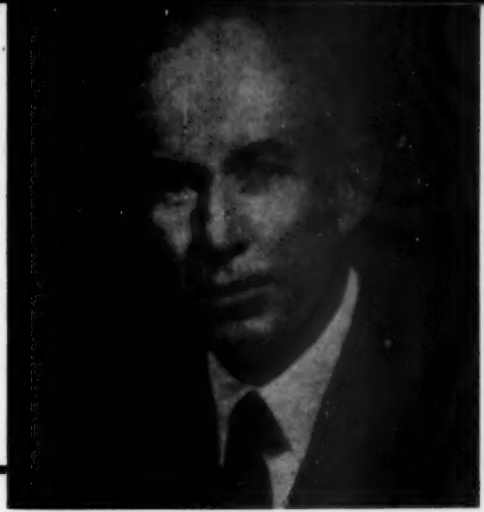
The committee is strongly of the opinion that the publication should be widely circulated among not only local authorities, but those at higher levels as well. Its use by civil service commissions and other officials who are responsible for the classification and selection of recreation personnel can result not only in improved methods of selection, but also in placing personnel on a level comparable to that on which other municipal employees are placed. It is interesting to note that the executive committee of the American Recreation Society has unanimously approved *Personnel Standards in Recreation Leadership* and urges its wide use.

The report should be of assistance to the faculties of colleges and other training institutions in the development of curricula to aid students in preparation for service in the recreation field. Above all, it should prove most helpful in presenting to prospective recreation leaders the opportunities available, the qualifications required, the duties involved and the compensation to be expected.

Members of the Recreation Leadership Standards Committee include the following superintendents or directors of recreation or parks and recreation: Chairman, Stephen H. Mahoney, Cambridge, Massachusetts; H. S. Callowhill, Baltimore, Maryland; E. D. Caulkins, Westchester County, New York; Russell Foval, Decatur, Illinois; Chase Hammond, Muskegon, Michigan; George Hjelte, Los Angeles, California; Mrs. Helena G. Hoyt, Syracuse, New York; Miss Dorothea Lensch, Portland, Oregon; F. S. Mathewson, Union County, New Jersey; Beverly Sheffield, Austin, Texas; Jay VerLee, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Lebert H. Weir

1878-1949



LEBERT WEIR PASSED away November 13, 1949. In his death, the park and recreation movements have lost a strong protagonist, a realistic crusader who has set an example of achievements which will serve as an inspiration to recreation leaders throughout the country.

When Howard Braucher invited Lebert Weir, in 1910, to become the first field secretary employed by the Playground Association of America, Mr. Weir welcomed the challenge and opportunity for national service which it opened to him. His five years of experience as head of the Juvenile Court in Cincinnati had convinced him of the need for adequate public recreation facilities and activities as one of the necessary preventatives of juvenile delinquency. As he once stated, "Since the public had assumed responsibility for the care of delinquents, I felt it should likewise be the duty of the public to assume responsibility for doing those things that would prevent delinquency."

Lebert Weir's enthusiasm for recreation and his exceptional power of interpretation made inevitable a career of distinguished service which has left an indelible imprint on the national recreation movement. His love of nature and appreciation of the place which nature activities play in the life of man lent power and strength to his special service in the field of park recreation. Parks had no greater friend than Lebert Weir.

His first service with the Association was in the Pacific Coast States of California, Washington and Oregon, helping communities to study their needs and to initiate and operate effective year-round programs. Since then, he has helped scores of communities in every state in the union with their park and recreation problems, and he has played an important role in planning for the human use of outstanding park areas.

During World War I he helped a number of communities to organize their recreation services for men in the armed forces when on leave. In

Chillicothe, Ohio, he successfully strengthened and enlarged the program, raised a half-million dollars and set up a model community for recreation. This center became the national training center for War Camp Community Service workers, the forerunner of the Chicago training institutes of the National Recreation Association.

Mr. Weir's work included service on a state-wide, national and international scope. At the request of Governor John G. Winant, then chief executive of New Hampshire, he made a state-wide recreation study of that state. He also made vocational and rural recreation studies in his home state of Indiana. In recent years he had been interested in helping to promote and serve state consultant services in Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota, and in the establishment of recreation leadership courses in the institutions of higher learning in these states.

He has served as consultant to the recreation advisor to the National Resources Board of the Federal Government. At the invitation of the Governor of the Virgin Islands, he made studies and plans for parks and recreation in that territory; he also made studies of recreation developments in Europe. Mr. Weir's two extensive nation-wide studies of parks and camping are well-known to park and recreation workers.

Lebert Weir was a member of the American Recreation Society and was made a Fellow at its annual meeting in Omaha in September, 1948. He was also a Senior Fellow of the American Institute of Park Executives for many years. In January, 1949, at the third Annual Recreation Meeting called by the Governor of Indiana, he received an "award of recognition of distinguished service in the field of recreation." He was again honored by his native state in October of this year when the Indiana Municipal Park and Recreation Association presented him with a recognition plaque, in absentia.

Recreation News

Change of Address

THE WEST COAST office of the National Recreation Association has been moved from Pasadena, California, to Room 424, 607 South Hill Street, Los Angeles 14. So get out your little black book and jot down the address.

Here you'll find sample copies of RECREATION magazine and NRA books and booklets. Lynn Rodney, the Association's district representative (see page 453), is in and out, and Miss Lulu Lydell, the office secretary, can put you in touch with him whenever you need him. She also will be ready to help you in any other way possible—to answer inquiries, take orders for materials, and so on.

Write, phone (Vandike 8382) or visit. Form the habit of dropping in for a chat when you are in that part of the country. You'll be welcome. The office is at your service!

A Tribute

THE CITY OF Lockport, New York, is planning to honor Howard Braucher, a native son, for his contribution to the recreation movement and his years as president of the National Recreation Association. At a recent meeting, the Lockport Park and Shade Tree Commission discussed the possibility of having some memorial to him in one of their city playgrounds. It is expected that Lockport will honor him by naming one of their playgrounds after him, or will set up a memorial plaque to him in one of their parks. Born in the town of Royalton, Mr. Braucher was a graduate of Lockport High School.

New Volley Ball Guide

YOUR COPY of the 1950 *Official Volley Ball Rule Book and Annual Guide* is now available. Edited and published by the United States Volley Ball Association, it presents detailed information on tournament results, playing suggestions, rules for all types of participants, and team pictures. The price is the same—fifty cents. This year, order from the U.S.V.B.A. Printer, P. O. Box 109, Berne, Indiana.

National Conference on Family Needs

RECREATION WAS A major topic of discussion at the National Conference on Appraising Family Needs held in St. Paul, Minnesota, in Septem-

ber. The Conference was sponsored by the St. Paul Planning and Research Council and other local agencies to consider the findings of a test study on community welfare services conducted by Community Research Associates.

The purpose of the Conference was to discuss methods by which the data had been gathered, to appraise the findings, and to provide suggestions and recommendations for the concluding year of the project. Sponsors expressed the belief that the Conference would "pave the way for a new direction to social planning and a more effective alignment of the service which American communities provide for the well-being of their citizens."

The National Recreation Association was represented among the 125 delegates who came from a broad variety of professions. Attention was focused upon recreation as one of the four chief segments of family need. The findings of the St. Paul Study and the Conference discussions revealed the need for a fundamental appraisal of recreation facilities and services, and a consideration of ways in which recreation agencies can cooperate to serve more adequately families in greatest need.

The St. Paul study also revealed a great maldistribution of recreation services by districts of the city, by ages and by program activities. Very few of the "multiple-problem" families were served by recreation agencies and several of the substandard neighborhoods received relatively little recreation service. A large percentage of individuals participating in the recreation program were between the ages of five and sixteen, and sports predominated in agency programs. Only 17.4 percent of the money spent for recreation in 1946 came from city-county funds, yet 31.9 percent of the recreation participants were in public programs. A large percentage of the recreation dollars came from private sources and were spent by private agencies.

Community Sports and Athletics

Prepared by the National Recreation Association, based upon experience of recreation authorities throughout the country, published by A. S. Barnes and Company.
500 pages\$4.00

Order from

NATIONAL RECREATION ASSOCIATION
315 Fourth Avenue New York 10, N. Y.

Care of Floors

At the Planning Recreation Areas and Facilities meeting of the industrial section of the 31st National Recreation Congress, the following suggestions were offered regarding floors:

A. For those who wax a maple floor for dancing and then have to remove the wax for basketball playing: if the floor is sealed, borax crystals can be used to take off wax; also, a weak solution of turpentine can be used.

B. Corn meal is still being used by many as a substitute for wax.

C. "Sock hops" are held in one company as a means of preventing damage to basketball floor.

D. Using the same floor for basketball, roller skating and dancing will soon ruin the average floor. For such multiple use, asphalt tile flooring is recommended. (See Congress Proceedings.)

Rubber Quoits

John W. Faust, district representative of the National Recreation Association, writes from Bethlehem, Pennsylvania:

"Interesting — rubber quoits — twelve ounces, are a rage here. They were holding a wildly exciting inter-playground tournament. One team of two little girls, eight and ten years of age, had a cheering section of eight boys who raised the roof for them. The city makes the stakeboards. We shall urge this elsewhere as it is as good for adults and eliminates the fuss of clay pits, the hazard of metal quoits. It's a faster game."

Fishing with No Water

One of the ideas coming from the Pet Ideas meeting in New Orleans was offered by a recreation worker from the west whose identity escapes us. It seems that there is a lack of water in his community—that is, water where it is safe for youngsters to play and where fishing is good. Therefore, he constructed artificial fish ponds on each playground, with all different species of wooden and paper fish that the children—and adults, too—could hook through the tail. For each fish caught a prize was given. Both youngsters and adults became so interested in fishing that the city fathers decided to do something, if at all possible, about the purification of the streams, and thus furnish an opportunity for everyone in the community to enjoy real fishing and water sports.

Tools for Crafts

Waldo Hainsworth, also district representative of the National Recreation Association, writes from Bristol, New Hampshire:

SUGGESTION Box

"Several months ago, Wink decided that they should have a crafts program for the children. He had no tools and no money with which to purchase any. He obtained a *Popular Mechanics* magazine and wrote letters to a large number of manufacturers of all kinds of tools. The purpose of his letter was to secure prices on rejects. His story was so convincing—telling of the operation of the center and the like—that many of the manufacturers have sent him complimentary sets of their products. To date he has a number of power tool sets, sanding machines, rules, dies, carpentry tools. I quote from a letter he received from the vice-president of one manufacturing company: 'We are very glad, indeed, to donate this material to the very worthy cause which you have mentioned, and no invoice will be rendered.' When the shop has been equipped (and it will be a good one when it is), he plans to have pictures taken of the children using the tools—sending them to the various companies who have helped."

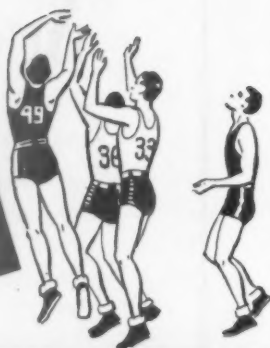
Do You Know

That the Methodist Publishing House, 810 Broadway, Nashville, Tennessee, puts out "World of Fun" records of the folk games of other countries? These sell for two dollars and can go a long way toward helping a group to appreciate what other people have contributed to the fun of the world. An accompanying booklet offers instructions, listings, general suggestions. The records can be obtained from any Methodist Publishing House, and also from other distributors.

Bathhouses

If you're building a bathhouse for an outdoor swimming pool, why not use removable partitions so that the building can serve as a recreation center during winter? This was done in Yuma, Arizona and was very successful.

ACT NOW!
Let Porter's experienced engineers recommend—without obligation—an economical, efficient solution to your basketball backstop installation problem!



basketball backstops to fit YOUR need

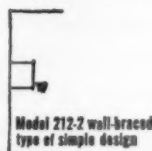


A neat, rigid Porter installation, meeting a condition that calls for extended wall bracing. Porter backstops not only perform well, but look well.

Whatever your individual basketball backstop installation problem, Porter has the *answer*. You see, Porter has been official purveyor of basketball backstop equipment to the nation's schools, universities and clubs for years. That's why so many coaches, school superintendents and others who buy and specify backstops will readily say, "Yes, Porter is headquarters for basketball backstops."

And Porter's engineering service is yours for the asking . . . to recommend, without charge or obligation, the efficient, economical way to install basketball backstops in your gymnasium or stadium . . . But don't wait until the last moment—until you are ready to use the court! Plan ahead—allow sufficient time for shipping and installation. Write—*now*—describing your problem.

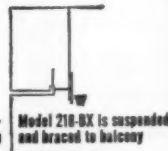
FAN-SHAPED BANKS—Porter can ship immediately famous Porter all-steel fan-shaped basketball banks.



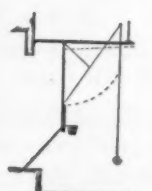
Model 212-2 wall-braced type of simple design



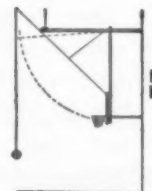
Model 1210 balcony installation with extension



Model 210-0X is suspended and braced to balcony



Model 2220 swing-up is braced to stage floor



Model 2210 swing-up is braced to balcony or wall

81 YEARS OLD

THE J. E. **PORTER** CORPORATION
OTTAWA, ILLINOIS

MANUFACTURERS OF PLAYGROUND, GYMNASIUM AND SWIMMING POOL EQUIPMENT

Exclusive MAKERS OF THE WORLD-FAMOUS JUNGLEGYM* CLIMBING STRUCTURE

Rea. U. S. Pat. Off.

LYNN S. RODNEY loves the West, the open spaces, so it was like coming home when he was assigned the National Recreation Association's Pacific Southwest district of California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico in July, 1948, after two years of field work in Michigan, Ohio, and West Virginia.

"After all," says Lynn, "my father and grandfather were born in California; I was born in Nevada and raised in Idaho and Washington State. This should give me some claim on the West." This background and his feeling for the recreation development of the area will do much to help future progress in Lynn's new district.

He moved to Coer d'Alene, Idaho, at an early age and, finally, to Spokane, Washington, which he calls his home town. In his high school years, he developed a keen interest in athletics and other school affairs and, in addition to participating in dramatics and club work, was outstanding as a swimmer, setting a national "Y", city, Inland Empire, and college records. It was in 1932 that he qualified in a Pacific coast swim meet to represent his area in the final U. S. Olympic tryouts.

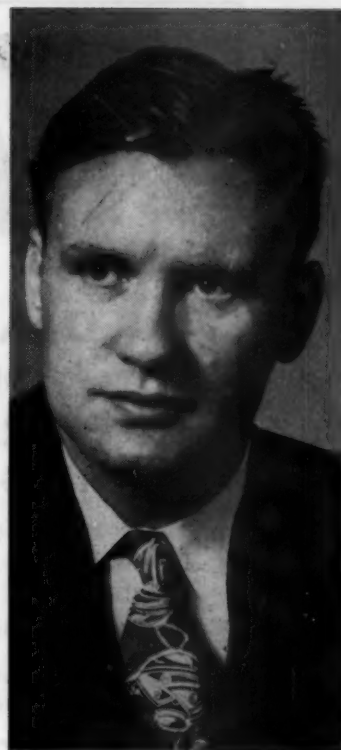
After high school Lynn attended Washington State College, earning in four years both his bachelor and master of arts degrees in political science and education. He then accepted a position as social science instructor in a small high school in a rural area along the Columbia River in Washington State which introduced him to the fun in teaching. Following progressive educational procedures, Lynn tied his work to the principle that you can learn at the same time, and enjoy it.

In reminiscing he says, "Living and teaching in a small rural community is an experience I shall never forget. The fun of teaching, as well as the fun of salmon fishing with the boys who might not know their school work but certainly knew their fishing, are memories not soon forgotten."

However, his teaching career was cut short for, after his first year, he was selected as one of the fifteen outstanding graduate students in the country and given a scholarship at the Maxwell School of Citizenship at Syracuse University. The school's purpose is to give the highest degree of training to prospective city managers and a master of science degree in public administration. Lynn's desire to work directly with people, children as well as adults, prompted him to seek a place in the recreation field. After completing his work at Syracuse, therefore, he was awarded one of the National Recreation Association's Henry Strong Dennison Fund apprentice fellowships. He was

IN THE FIELD...

LYNN S. RODNEY



assigned to the Division of Recreation and Community Activities of the Board of Education in New York City, his training directed by the Association and Mark McCloskey, division director.

After the New York experience, Lynn joined the staff of the Smith Memorial Playground and Playhouses in Philadelphia. He was made supervisor of one of the oldest playhouses in the country, located in East Fairmount Park and provided for under the wills of Richard and Sarah A. Smith over fifty years ago. In this position there existed a close relationship between the playhouse program, the Temple University School of Social Work, and the School of Education.

War clouds on the horizon and the Pearl Harbor attack prompted Lynn to volunteer for service in the U. S. Naval Reserve. There he received a commission as a deck officer, but an eye defect led to inactive status. It was only natural, then, for him to turn to municipal work.

Galveston, Texas, in the throes of wartime expansion, was looking for a recreation and park director, one who could take the lead in developing a program for this war community. Thousands of servicemen in the city and outlying camps, as well as the thousands of new families attracted to the war industries and shipyards, created a serious recreation problem. This was the job for which Lynn was looking—one with a challenge.

He took it on when asked, knowing full well



DIAMOND
OFFICIAL
SUPER RINGER SETS
PITCHING HORSESHOES

The finest pitching horseshoes ever made. Drop-forged from special carbon steel heat-treated to prevent chipping or breaking without destroying dead falling qualities.

Write for your catalog **Diamond**
Pitching Horseshoes and Accessories

DIAMOND CALK HORSESHOE
COMPANY

4614 GRAND AVENUE DULUTH, MINN.

IN EVERY FIELD OF SPORT...

MacGregor
GoldSmith
SPORTS EQUIPMENT



In every field of sport in Professional, Semi-Pro and Amateur Baseball and Softball, in Universities, Colleges and High Schools, in Municipal and Industrial Recreation, MacGregor-GoldSmith Sports Equipment is recognized as a hallmark of quality and unvarying performance.

MacGregor GoldSmith Inc.

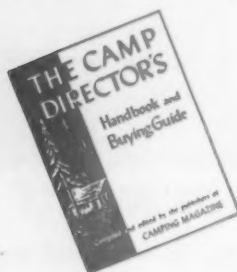
WORLD'S BEST SOURCE

of authoritative, up-to-date information on the best in camping

CAMPING MAGAZINE, official publication of American Camping Association, is the one periodical devoted entirely to the "know-how" of organized camp operation. Its articles cover the interests of all types of camps: Day camps, resident camps, church camps, Scout camps, social agency camps, and many others.

Whether your interest is in starting a new camp, serving most effectively on a camp board, being a staff member of a camp or improving the operation of your own camp, CAMPING MAGAZINE is the world's best source for authoritative, up-to-date, practical information.

Published monthly, November through June. Subscriptions \$3.00 per year in U. S., \$3.25 in Canada. Start your subscription NOW! Let CAMPING MAGAZINE help you all through busy 1950. Use the handy coupon at right.



If payment accompanies order, saving us time and bookkeeping, we'll send you FREE a copy of *The Camp Director's Handbook and Buying Guide*. Offer expires December 31, 1949.



CAMPING MAGAZINE

181 CHESTNUT AVENUE, METUCHEN, N. J.

Please enter my subscription to CAMPING MAGAZINE at \$3.00 per year.

Name _____

Street and No. _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

☐ Payment herewith
Send free Handbook

☐ Payment will be sent
on receipt of invoice

what problems lay ahead. He made friends quickly, received support, and was soon working on plans for a permanent program. A recreation and park board was developed; all community facilities and resources were called upon to work together in solving a vexing problem; a servicemen's club program was organized; a youth council resulted in teen canteens and a voice for youth in wartime. Park and city beautification plans and the development of community center and playground programs soon followed, and community problems were dealt with through the organization of a community council, in which all local agencies had the opportunity to cooperate and to be heard.

About this time, Houston, Texas, a neighboring city to the north, had a vacancy for a superintendent of recreation. When approached about this position, Lynn became interested in the challenge of a program for a metropolis, a city faced with tremendous growth. Also, Houston was known for the quality of its recreation program and its vision. This seemed to offer a chance to stay put and to develop, through the years, the expansion of an already fine department. He was appointed but, before two years had passed, the city manager, learning of his municipal administration training at Syracuse, urged him to take the examination for the position as city budget director—a position entailing the preparation and administration of a large budget for a metropolitan city.

"No one was more surprised than I to learn that I was one of the top three in the exam, but when asked to take the position, I was floored!" It was a challenge, a new field, but Lynn turned

down the offer at first. He was won over, however, when the full scope of the position was presented to him. "Surely, working with an \$11,000,000 budget was something to lead to growth."

Finance work soon led to a teaching assignment at the University of Houston in public finance and finance management, as well as in economics. However, finance work was away from contact with people. So, when Lynn was asked to join the staff of the National Recreation Association, he gladly accepted and took over the district of Michigan, Ohio and West Virginia. Upon the retirement of George Braden, it was felt that he was just the man to take over duties in the western district.

He now makes his headquarters in the new Los Angeles office of the NRA. The office secretary, Miss Lulu Lydell, writes: "Mr. Rodney's genuine sympathy and understanding make it possible for recreation leaders to talk freely with him about their problems. He is 'Lynn' to everyone."

In his work as a district field representative for the Association, Lynn finds highly useful his experience as an administrator of local, municipal recreation departments. Many of the troublesome finance problems, which cities and communities bring to him in connection with the planning and developing of their recreation and park service, he finds easier to solve because of his work as a city budget director.

Like most recreation people, he loves the out-of-doors, hiking, camping, swimming, plant lore. Reading also is one of his favorite leisure-time pursuits. He and Mrs. Rodney and two children now make their home in Los Angeles.

SOFTBALL RULES for 1950

THE INTERNATIONAL Joint Rules Committee on Softball, at its September meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas, made several changes in the official softball rules for 1950.

The committee changed the men's pitching distance from forty-three to forty-six feet. The women's pitching distance of thirty-five feet remains the same. The main argument for the lengthening of the pitching distance was the many low-hit, no-score games in softball. It was felt that the change would increase the number of hits and runs scored.

The rule on stealing (Rule 30, Section 15) was

also tightened so that, in 1950, a baserunner will be required to keep contact with his base while the pitcher has the ball in pitching position and both feet in contact with the rubber. In other words, during this interval, the ball will be dead.

Rule 24, Section 10 has been deleted, and Section 11 has been added to Rule 23, making the ball dead when a baserunner is called out for leaving his base too soon.

These are but a few of the new changes. The complete 1950 rules will soon be available in the *Official Softball Rules Book*.



RECREATIONAL LEADERS

Make a Note of These!

New Publications of the National Section on Women's Athletics

(A section of the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation)

- The **Official Recreational Games—Volley Ball Guide**1949-51
- The **Official Aquatics, Winter Sports and Outing Activities Guide**1949-51
- The **Official Basketball Guide**1949-50

Each guide contains official playing rules for girls and women, articles on techniques, teaching, organization, bibliographies, and certain special features related to the sports covered in the respective books. 50 cents each.

One of the most valuable books in our field!

RESEARCH METHODS APPLIED TO HEALTH, PHYSICAL EDUCATION, AND RECREATION

a project of the Research Section of the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation

Editorial Committee—CAROLYN and KARL BOOKWALTER, T. K. CURETON, and M. GLADYS SCOTT.

Some chapter titles—Library Research Methods; Historical Research Methods; Photographical and Cinematographical Research Methods; Test Construction and Analysis; Statistical Prediction and Causal Analysis; Writing the Research Report.

480 pages. 40 pages of tabular material. 22 illustrations. . . . Price \$5.00

Published by

**THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR HEALTH,
PHYSICAL EDUCATION, AND RECREATION**

1201 Sixteenth Street, NW

Washington 6, D. C.

Crispin Oglebay



THE WHOLE RECREATION movement has suffered a loss in the death of Crispin Oglebay, who died in his home at Gates Mills, Ohio, on October twenty-third. He was an outstanding industrialist and philanthropist who, in addition to extensive business interests, followed a vision for enriching the lives of people through recreation. This was evident in many ways, but its expression was clearest in his devotion to the development of Oglebay Park and his services to the recreation movement. His primary interest was in people, rather than in places.

Mr. Oglebay was the nephew of Colonel Earl W. Oglebay, who left his estate to Wheeling, West Virginia, for a park. One of the principal interests of Crispin Oglebay's life was to make this property a great medium of recreational and cultural service to the people of the entire region. In this he was eminently successful. He not only gave generously to it each year—his gifts being estimated at over one-half million dollars during the last twenty years—but, more important, he also gave his own personal attention and leadership. He conferred with leaders, read reports, followed up suggestions, and visited other communities having similar facilities. He welcomed visits from experts, had studies made, and enlisted the interest of community leaders.

Mr. Oglebay was an honorary member of the National Recreation Association and, for a number of years up to the time of his death, served as the Association's sponsor in Cleveland, Ohio. He closely followed the work of the NRA and regularly visited the headquarters office to discuss Association problems and to keep in touch with developments throughout the country.

Crispin Oglebay not only contributed to the National Recreation Association, but gladly asked friends and industrial companies to do the same. He was enthusiastic in his tribute to the Association for its influence and help in the development of Oglebay Park.

No note about Crispin Oglebay is complete without mentioning his special feeling for beauty. He worked constantly to increase facilities that would give people opportunities to enjoy nature and sense beauty not only in gardens and woodlands, but also in music, drama, crafts and other creative arts.

We gladly record here recognition of his great contribution to local and national recreation, and the joy that he himself experienced in working for more recreation for more people throughout the land.

Magazines and Pamphlets

Charting Group Progress, Saul Bernstein. Association Press, 291 Broadway, New York. \$.75.

Beach and Pool, September 1949

New Aquatic Sport Born in Y.M.C.A., Leo P. Majcher.

Design and Construction Features of a Modern Pool Project, Dunlap and Company.

Questions and Answers for Swimming Pool Operators.

Scholastic Coach, September 1949

Your Gymnasium Plant, Don Cash Seaton.

Complete Intra-Mural Program, Ray Smalling.

Journal of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, September 1949

Competition: NSWA Faces the Issue, Alice Shriver.

Park Maintenance, September 1949

Underfoot Areas, the Problems of their Neglect, William Beaudry.

Annual Buyers' Guide.

Child Study, Fall 1949

Looking at the Comics—1949.



**SEAMLESS
555
HANDBALLS**

**YOUR
CHAMPIONSHIP
BALL**

The SEAMLESS 555 is true and fast—has more *life* and *staying* power than any other ball made! Used in all major tournaments, including the National A.A.U. Used in millions of match games. Preferred everywhere by champions—the most *critical* judges of quality and value! (For the faster practice handball, specify SEAMLESS 556.)

FINEST QUALITY SINCE 1877

ATHLETIC GOODS DIVISION
THE SEAMLESS RUBBER COMPANY
NEW HAVEN 3, CONN., U. S. A.



REG.
U. S.
PAT.
OFF.

Books Received

American Planning and Civic Annual, edited by Harlean James. American Planning and Civic Association, 901 Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C. \$3.00.

Big Elephant, The, Kathryn and Bryon Jackson. Simon and Schuster, New York. \$1.00.

Boating Is Fun, Ruth Brindze. Dodd, Mead and Company, New York. \$2.50.

Boy's Book of Body Building, Stanley Pashko. Greenberg Publisher, New York. \$2.50.

Campaigning for Members, Herman A. Sarachan. Association Press, New York. \$3.00.

Craft of Ceramics, The, Geza de Vegh and Alber Mandi. D. Van Nostrand and Company, New York. \$4.75.

Education for Safe Living—Second Edition, Stack, Seibrecht and Elkow. Prentice-Hall Publishers, New York. \$5.00.

Football for the Beginner, George R. Staten. Educational Publishers St. Louis, Missouri. \$2.00.

Golden Books of Words, The, Jane Werner. Simon and Schuster, New York. \$1.00.

Handbooks of European National Dances—Dances of Czechoslovakia, Mila Lubinova; **Dances of Sweden**, Erik Salven; **Dances of the Netherlands**, Elise van der Ven-ten Bense; **Dances of Switzerland**, Louise Witzig. Chanticleer Press, New York. \$1.25 each.

Horseman's Companion, The, Margaret Cabell Self. A. S. Barnes and Company, New York. \$3.00.

How to Make Braided Rugs, Dorothy Altpeter. Harper and Brothers, New York. \$1.50.

North American Fresh Water Sport Fish, Lou S. Caine. A. S. Barnes, New York. \$5.00.

"MUST" FILMS

on Community Recreation

PLAYTOWN, U.S.A., 2 1/2 reels, in color. How social service and other voluntary agencies can invest wisely in a complete community recreation program. **Rental \$2.00**

LEADERS FOR LEISURE, 2 reels, in color. Demonstrates the importance of adequate leadership in community recreation programs. **Rental \$2.50**

Carefully Selected

FEATURES • CARTOONS • COMEDIES

Only the Best in

**SPORTS • CAMPING • NATURE STUDY
ARTS and CRAFTS**

Widest Selection of FREE FILMS

**TRAVEL • SCIENCE • VOCATIONS
Many in Color**

**Write today for the new 1949 - 1950 Catalog of
SELECTED MOTION PICTURES**

ASSOCIATION FILMS

NEW YORK 19 35 West 43rd St. CHICAGO 3 206 So. Michigan Ave. SAN FRANCISCO 2 351 Turk St. DALLAS 4 3012 Maple Avenue



New Publications

Covering the Leisure Time Field

Power Skiing Illustrated

By Tyler Micoleau. A. S. Barnes and Company, New York. \$2.95.

ACCORDING TO THE author, preparation of this book was motivated by a belief that skiing fundamentally is very simple, and that people can learn quickly given the proper set of objectives. Says he, "When you drive an automobile and you come to a corner, you turn the wheel. It is as simple as that."

Beginning with equipment and the reasons for each element of its design, and continuing with first principles of walking, climbing and turning, he explains each step in the light of its relation and use to the art as a whole, proceeding through intermediate steps to the final analysis of motions that combine into powerful and advanced skiing. Having had experience as a commercial artist, Mr. Micoleau falls back on his brush and presents each point graphically, with a minimum of written explanation. Such visual aid and simplicity of presentation not only add to the attractiveness of the book, but are bound to be extremely helpful in understanding his analysis of techniques. It should make an excellent gift for the novice, expert, leader or instructor.

Social Group Work Practice

By Gertrude Wilson and Gladys Ryland. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, Massachusetts. \$5.00.

THIS BOOK is designed mainly for the use of students in social group work, and is arranged in four parts—Social Group Work Method, Analysis of Program Media, Records of Social Group

Work Practice, Supervisory and Administrative Processes. Its references to recreation emphasize its value in personal and social adjustment. The section on Analysis of Program Media should be of particular interest to all recreation workers as it effectively reviews the theories of play and includes stimulating analyses of the values of different types of activities in games, rhythmic, dance, music, dramatics, arts, crafts, the out-of-doors and trips.

Handbook of Homecraft

Prepared by Standards Committee, Girls Clubs of America, Inc., 115 State Street, Springfield, Massachusetts. Price not listed.

EVERY RECREATION LEADER who works with girls knows how difficult it is to find specific program material, particularly the "feminine" type stressing natural home interests, but making them fun instead of chores. The Standards Committee has done a good job in sifting actual, tested programs and developing an interesting recreation program that is fun, yet teaches definite skills in cooking, sewing, housekeeping, and the arts of etiquette and hospitality.

This book is very carefully outlined, with specific details for procedure, equipment and objectives, and arranged for both younger and older girls. It's divided into seven sections—the first, a general one on objectives and leadership and the second, on the general subject of homemaking through play. Other sections deal specifically with kitchen and dining room activities such as cooking, buying, table etiquette, being a good hostess, housekeeping, and activities for mother's aide, in-

cluding child care and home nursing.

The Standards Committee also did a fine job of preparing interesting program material. We wish it had been equally careful in preparing the extensive bibliographies given at the end of each section. We note that some of the references are now out of print, publishers' addresses have sometimes changed, some prices have changed and no zone numbers are given. We know from long experience that the preparation of bibliographies is an onerous job. A very careful checking, however, is well-worth the effort because the resulting accuracy gives greater value to the manual.

Child's Book of Magic

By Hassoldt Davis. Greenberg Publisher, New York. \$1.00.

THIS IS A simply written, perfectly fascinating little book of magic for children. One out of every few pages carries an intriguing cellophane envelope containing the materials necessary for a particular piece of hokus-pokus. It will provide a delightful little piece of fun for any child, group of youngsters, or children's party. They will love trying these things themselves. Ideal for Christmas stockings!

Play Ideas

WITHIN THE RANGE of a modest pocketbook are four gay little books by Caroline Horowitz, which have just been published by the Hart Publishing Company, New York, selling for fifty cents each. These are overflowing with play ideas which are an answer to the old, familiar cry, "Mama, what shall I do now?" Also, they contain many a helpful suggestion for leaders of young children. Titles are: *Eighty Play Ideas*—for boys and girls from four to seven; *Play Alone Fun*, six to nine; *Forty Rainy-Day Games*, nine to fourteen; *Sixty Swell Playmates Games*, seven to thirteen.

Personal Adjustment in Old Age

By Ruth Shonle Cavan, Ernest W. Burgess, Robert J. Havighurst and Herbert Goldhamer. Science Research Associates, Chicago, Illinois. \$2.95.

ALTHOUGH THIS BOOK is addressed primarily to research workers to stimulate studies in the field of old age adjustment, it includes material

which should be familiar to all workers with older adults. It presents a background of old age—problems and adjustments—that is extremely useful in meeting the recreation and leisure-time needs of the aged, as well as the more commonly accepted needs for economic security and physical health.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946, OF RECREATION, published monthly at New York, N. Y., for October 1, 1949.

STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF NEW YORK

ss. Before me, a Notary Public, in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared ROSE J. SCHWARTZ, who having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that she is the Business Manager of the RECREATION, and that the following is, to the best of her knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily, weekly, semiweekly or triweekly newspaper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the acts of March 3, 1933, and July 2, 1946 (section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations), printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are:

Publisher: National Recreation Association, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

Editor: None.

Managing Editor: Dorothy Donaldson, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

Business Manager: Rose J. Schwartz, 315 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.)

National Recreation Association, Inc., 315 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y.

F. W. H. Adams, New York, N. Y.; F. Gregg Bemis, Boston Mass.; Edward C. Bench, Englewood, N. J.; Mrs. Robert Woods Bliss, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Arthur G. Cummer, Jacksonville, Fla.; William H. Davis, New York, N. Y.; Harry P. Davison, New York, N. Y.; Robert Garrett, Baltimore, Md.; Robert Grant, 3rd, Oyster Bay, L. I., N. Y.; Austin E. Griffiths, Seattle, Wash.; Mrs. Norman Harrower, Fitchburg, Mass.; Mrs. Charles V. Hickox, Michigan City, Ind.; Mrs. John D. Jameson, Bellport, N. Y.; Susan M. Lee, New York, N. Y.; Otto T. Malery, Philadelphia, Pa.; Carl E. Milliken, Augusta, Me.; Mrs. Ogden L. Mills, Woodbury, N. Y.; Paul Moore, Jr., Jersey City, N. J.; Mrs. Sigmund Stern, San Francisco, Calif.; Grant Titsworth, Noroton, Conn.; J. C. Walsh, Yonkers, N. Y.; Frederick M. Warburg, New York, N. Y.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.)

None (non-profit organization.)

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by her.

5. That the average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the twelve months preceding the date shown above is (This information is required from daily, weekly, semiweekly, and triweekly newspapers only.)

ROSE J. SCHWARTZ,

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 8th day of September, 1949.

MIRIAM S. C. DOCHTERMANN,
Notary Public, Nassau County.

Nassau County Clerk's No. 99. Certificate Filed in New York County. Clerk's No. 230. Register's No. 27-D-0. My Commission expires March 30, 1950.